‘CNMI still needs to be in emergency mode’ PAGE 2
Increase in global fuel prices results in FAC hike. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI’S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 42

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY MARCH 2, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Gas prices continue to escalate

The Mobil Oil Marianas gas station in Garapan displays the new gas prices. NEIL FAMA

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine days since increasing its prices by 10 cents, Mobil Oil Marianas once again boosted its gas prices yesterday by another 10 cents, bringing its primary fuel product to $4.40 a gallon.

The price adjustment, which has a waterfall effect on gas prices on Tinian and Rota,

See GAS on Page 4

CHCC orders 400 J&J doses

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Soon after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. immediately ordered 400 doses of the vaccine yesterday, even as the CNMI is expected to receive more than 13,000 COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Inc. with-

See CHCC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, March 1, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,735	0	7,735
Recovered	7,564	0	7,564
Active	41	0	41
Deaths	131	0	131
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			126,141

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	143	0	143
Traced via Travel Screening	117	0	117
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			194

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 9,643	Dose 1: 523	Dose 1: 745
Dose 2: 7,271	Dose 2: 137	Dose 2: 258

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Fraud overwhelms pandemic-related unemployment programs

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—With the floodgates set to open on another round of unemployment aid, states are being hammered with a new wave of fraud as they scramble to update security systems and block scammers who already have siphoned billions of dollars from pandemic-related job-

See FRAUD on Page 4

A man walks past a “Now Hiring” sign on a window at Sherwin Williams store, Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, in Woodmere Village, Ohio. AP

Family of man killed in PR crash sues Fabia, Artman

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The family of the man who was killed in the collision between a pickup truck and an Artman Environmental Corp. dump truck last Feb. 1 is now suing the Artman and the driver for wrongful death and negligence.

The family of Raju Miah, who is being represented by a close friend, Khorshed Alam, is suing Artman Environmental Corp. and truck driver Eduardo T. Fabia in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for negligence.

Alam said in a filing last Thursday that the dead man’s family have incurred costs and expenses, such as medical expenses, hospital bills, funeral, and other cost related to Miah’s death.

See FAMILY on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

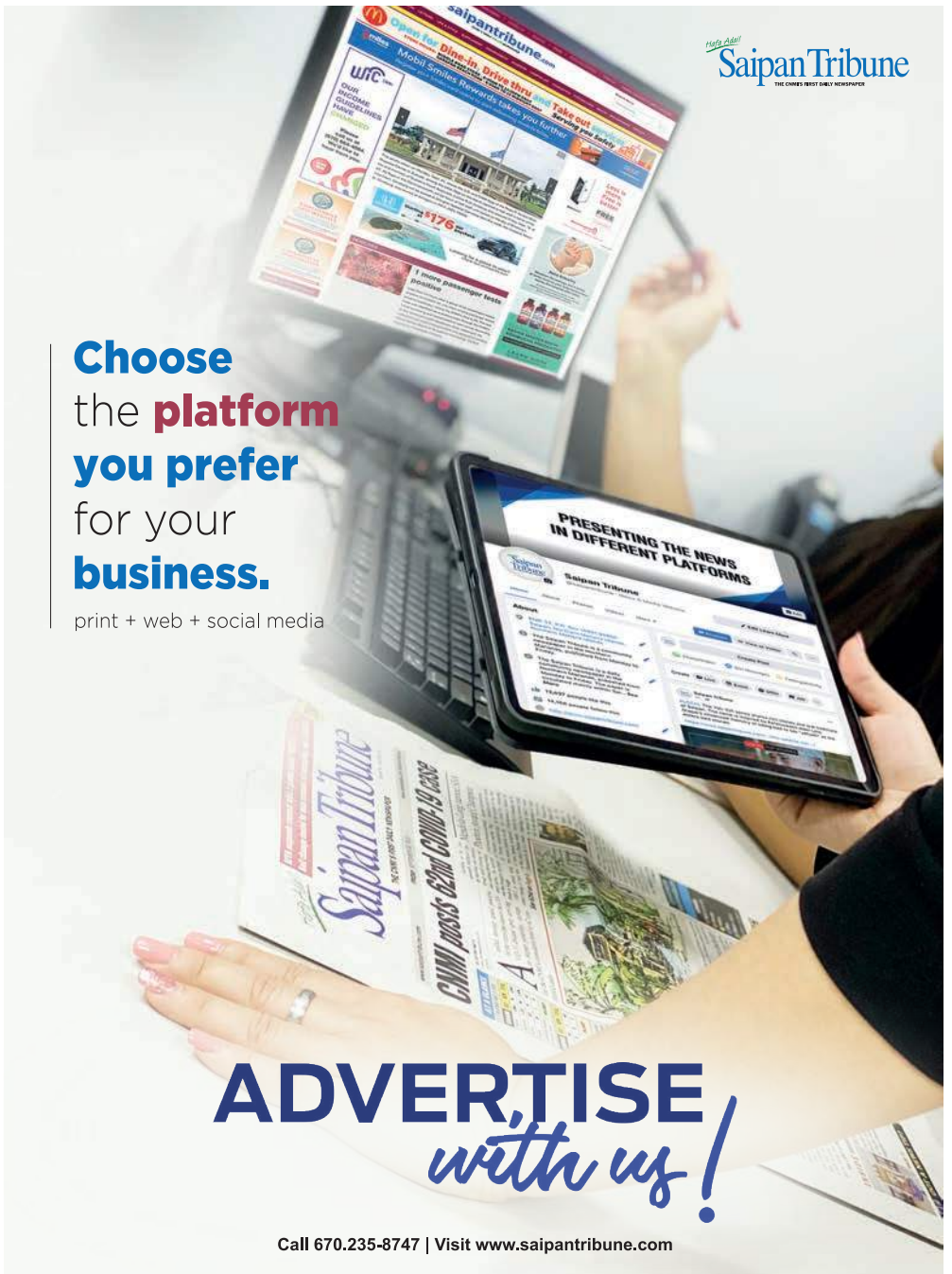
LOCAL
The vision is to transform the Garapan Core into a “Complete Street” in 36 months.
PAGE 3

BUSINESS
Chinen Ice Candy has become the *de facto* cold dessert of choice for most locals.
PAGE 11

ASIA
The Philippines launches a vaccination campaign to contain one of Asia’s worst outbreaks.
PAGE 13

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



Local

'NMI still needs to be in emergency mode'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, and governor's authorized representative Patrick Guerrero all agree that it's still necessary to continue the monthly declarations of State of Public Health Emergency and State of Significant Emergency for the CNMI due to imminent threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

» All agree to continue monthly emergency declarations

In response to a question by House of Representatives Committee on Health and Welfare chair Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) during Friday's meeting whether there is still a need to have these monthly emergency declarations, Muña said the federal government itself says the public health emergency is still on and a U.S. Health and Human Services notice last month stated that the emergency is likely to last through December 2021. If that changes, Muña said HHS will be putting out at least a two-month notice before ending the emergency.

In a letter to U.S. governors last January, acting HHS secretary Norris Cochran announced HHS's intention to keep the public health emergency declaration in place throughout 2021, and the department will give states 60 days' notice before the declaration is terminated or expires.

Villagomez said he does monthly assessment for the state level on the necessary action, with federal guidance.

"Yes, we still need to be in the emergency mode," he said.

He said noted that there's a lot of coordination within inter-government to support, from vaccination to safety, and the community village-based enforcement.

The chairman said the attorney general and the businesses are working with the task force, and the Public School System is having more interactions in classrooms.

GAR Guerrero said he needs the declarations for reimbursement of expenses.

"But I think the short answer and one answer maybe is, as long as there's a public health emergency, we're all in line to keep that going," Guerrero said.

Every month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres renews Executive Order 2020-04, declaring a State of Public Health and State of Significant Emergency for the CNMI due to the pandemic's threat.

Torres also renews every month Executive Order 2020-07, which ordered the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, through the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and in partnership with CHCC, to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of emergency directives to protect the health and safety of the public.

Guerrero said they have to keep the executive order active for manageability of activities.

"There still has to be an executive order that needs to be in place for certain activities to continue," Guerrero said.

APC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
COSTA'S BUFFET IS BACK!
at Aqua Resort Club Saipan
SEAFOOD NIGHT BUFFET
Our Seafood Night Dinner Buffet is back! Indulge in all-you-can-eat Seafood appetizers, entrees, side dishes and delicious desserts, All complimented with bottomless beer!
FRIDAY • 6pm-9pm
Adults $38 | Children $19
STEAK NIGHT BUFFET
Our delicious Steak Night Dinner Buffet is back! All-you-can-eat Steak, fresh salad bar, side dishes, and desserts. Free-Flowing Red & White Wine and Bottomless beer & sodas!
SATURDAY • 6pm-9pm
Adults $38 | Children $19
SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET
Treat your family & friends to Champagne Sunday Brunch featuring a delectable buffet of international cuisines, free-flowing sparkling wine & a beautiful, bright beachfront view!
SUNDAY • 11am-2pm
Adults $38 | Children $19
Costa
Terrace Restaurant
Limited Seating Available, Reservations Recommended. Call (670) 322-1234 for Reservations & More Information
COSTA IS OPEN FOR LUNCH! • A La Carte Dining • Friday, Saturday & Monday • 11am-2pm

Garapan Core to be developed into a 'Complete Street'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The vision is to transform what is called the Garapan Core—from Hyatt Regency Saipan to the Garapan Fire Station corner, then down to where the Cha Café & Bistro is to where Imperial Pacific Saipan is located, and out to DFS on Beach Road—into what is termed as a "Complete Street" and the plan is to do it all within at least 36 months.

That will involve a total redesign of Saipan's main commercial district to enable safe use and support mobility for all users, including older adults, people living with disabilities, people who cannot afford or do not have access to a car, and traditionally underserved communities.

Complete streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, jobs, and schools, bicycle to work, and move with assistive devices. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk or move actively to and from train stations.

The whole idea, according to Office of Planning and Development deputy director Chris Concepcion, is about elevating the safety and comfort of pedestrians of all ages and cyclists by constructing organized street lighting, parking spaces, pathways and pavements and doing away with unestablished sidewalks, unlighted corners and being exposed to moving cars on the road.

This vision will help improve the quality of life of both residents and tourists and provide an urban, fresh and modern look that Garapan is in dire need of, he said.

That vision has moved a step closer to reality with the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce recently awarding the CNMI $11.2 million to put into effect the "Garapan Revitalization Plan" enforced by OPD under the Office of the Governor through the Garapan Revitalization Task Force, which is composed of public and private entities.

"We are very excited about the $11.2 million award because it's really going to transform Garapan. …The revitalization will touch everything within what is traditionally called the 'Garapan Core,'" said Concepcion.

"The amount of the award is based on the ballpark figure that some architects and engineers we worked with gave us on how much it will cost to redo the [Garapan Core]…and make them all blend," he said.

Aesthetically, OPD wants to achieve the "open air" architecture, where tables and chairs are outside, where people can relax, dine, or read a book and is always inviting to both residents and tourists.

According to him, the full process will take at least 36 months, starting from giving out request for quotations to completion of the construction. "With issues that the CNMI have when it comes to workforce, etc., we estimate that the best-case scenario for the revitalization is three years but hopefully sooner. …First phase will be to RFQ out project management services, then architectural and engineering designs. Construction is the longer phase and the bulk of it is what we are doing already, like regrading and resurfacing the streets and building curbs," he said.

One of the main issues that the revitalization will address is flooding in the area when it rains. He said that they have discovered that what is causing the flooding is the collapse of a pipe in the area. "That has to be taken cared of," he said. "We need engineers to come up with a design especially when it rains in the area."

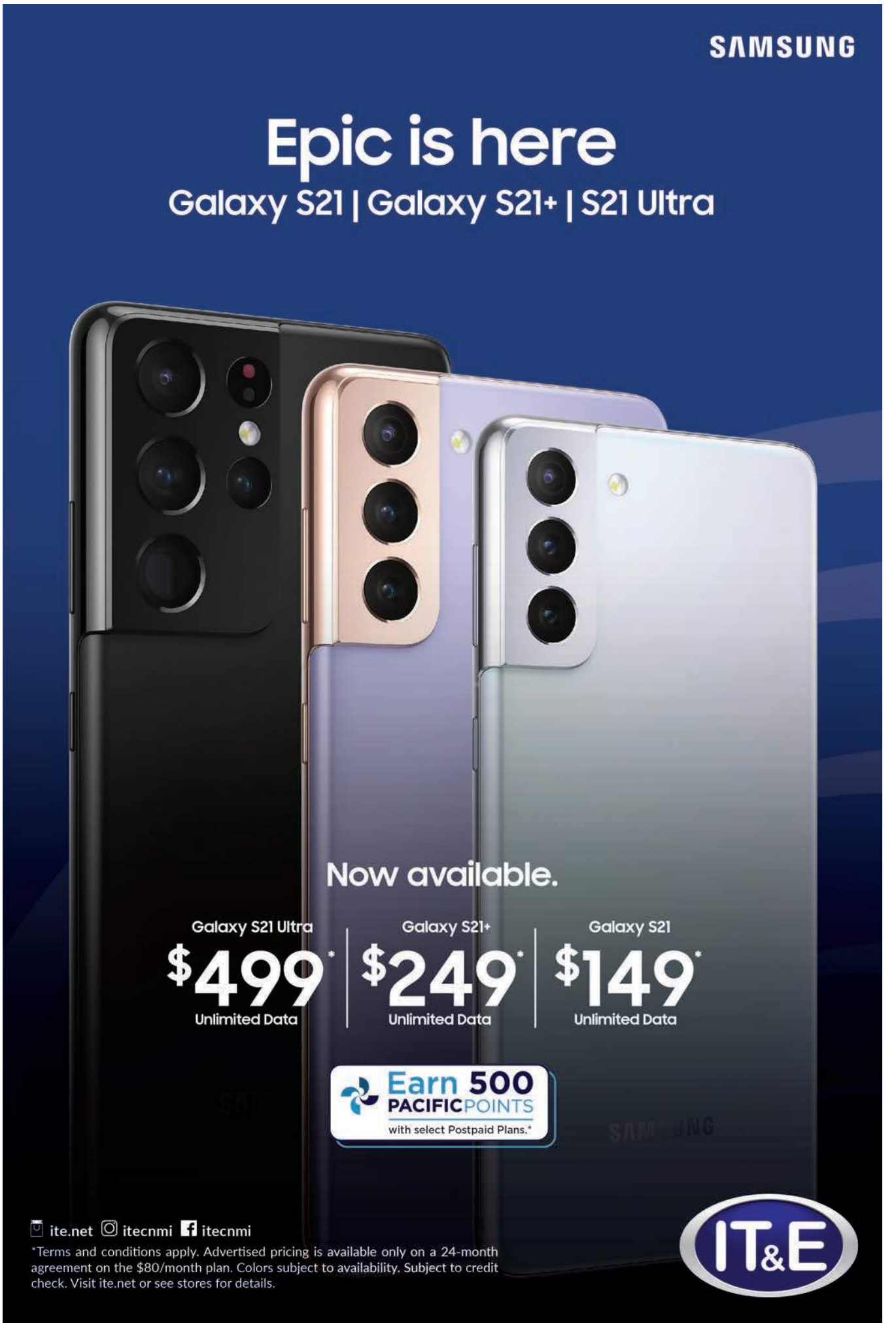
The EDA grant does not cover fixing the collapsed drainage but Concepcion assured that "we do have other sources of funding and we are going to tap into that." That includes funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that's awarded to the Hazard Mitigation Team under the Office of the Governor. "That will be a huge help to take care of the drainage in that area."

Concepcion said that the GRTF plans to open up the street in Paseo de Marianas if that is what the community wants. "Traditionally, Paseo de Marianas has been the focal point or center of interest but we have seen over the years when it was converted into a pedestrian mall, it became slow and difficult for business owners. When the GRTF reconvened, the businesses in the area wants it reopened to a street again. We are listening to their concerns and the process is not simple as turning it back into a street without going through the regulation process. If we open the street back up, we will make sure that we have a hybrid design, still compatible with the 'Complete Street' concept, such that in case we want to close it down for festivals for any community events, we can," he said.

Last week, the GRTF took on water blasting and repainting parking markers in Garapan. "That project was our partnership with TanHoldings which donated paint, supplies, and manpower to start with the parallel parking markers. At the same time, the Department of Public Works started the installation of the one-way street signs," Concepcion said

"The Garapan Core is really a nice area and we could do a lot if we just take care of it," he added.

Office of Planning and Development deputy director Chris Concepcion.
BEA CABRERA


SAMSUNG
Epic is here
Galaxy S21 | Galaxy S21+ | S21 Ultra
Now available.
Galaxy S21 Ultra
$499*
Unlimited Data
Galaxy S21+
$249*
Unlimited Data
Galaxy S21
$149*
Unlimited Data
Earn 500 PACIFICPOINTS
with select Postpaid Plans.*
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
*Terms and conditions apply. Advertised pricing is available only on a 24-month agreement on the $80/month plan. Colors subject to availability. Subject to credit check. Visit ite.net or see stores for details.
IT&E

CCC board denies granting Yumul temporary license as IPI CEO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board has denied CEC executive director Andrew Yeom's recommendation to grant a temporary license to Ray N. Yumul to serve as chief executive officer of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about Yumul's CEO position, Yeom said yesterday that the CCC board denied his (Yeom's) recommendation to give a 90-day temporary license to Yumul as IPI's CEO because the applicable fee is not paid in full.

"Therefore, the application is considered not submitted in full until the payment is made in full," Yeom said.

At CCC board's regular monthly meeting last Wednesday, Yeom reminded the board that they will be talking about a "temporary license" and not the conventional "provisional key employee license" since Yumul does not come from a gaming background. The requirement to be considered a "key employee" is for one to be licensed as a casino key employee in the CNMI or any other U.S. jurisdictions in the last five years.

The executive director said if acknowledged and approved by the board, the temporary licensure is good for 90 days with a possible extension of an additional 90 days.

"That may work out well in terms of timing in that it allows us just enough time to vet for this regular license while Mr. Yumul has the legal status to carry on his duty until such time an official decision on his regular CKE licensure is rendered by the commission," Yeom said.

FRAUD

From Page 1

less programs.

The fraud is fleecing taxpayers, delaying legitimate payments and turning thousands of Americans into unwitting identity theft victims. Many states have failed to adequately safeguard their systems, and a review by The Associated Press finds that some will not even publicly acknowledge the extent of the problem.

The massive sham springs from prior identity theft from banks, credit rating agencies, health care systems and retailers. Fraud perpetrators, sometimes in China, Nigeria or Russia, buy stolen personal identifying information on the dark web and use it to flood state unemployment systems with bogus claims.

The U.S. Justice Department is investigating unemployment fraud by "transnational criminal organizations, sophisticated domestic actors, and individuals across the United States," said Joshua Stueve, a spokesman for the department's criminal division.

The Labor Department inspector general's office estimates that more than $63 billion has been paid out improperly through fraud or errors—roughly 10% of the total amount paid under coronavirus pandemic-related unemployment programs since March.

"We're all learning that there is an epidemic of fraud," said U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the ranking Republican on the House's powerful Ways and Means Committee. Brady said the $63 billion estimate "is larger than the entire budget of the Department of Homeland Security."

"These are frightening levels of fraud," he said.

California has been the biggest target, with an estimated $11 billion in fraudulent payments and an additional $19 billion in suspect accounts. Colorado has paid out nearly as much to scammers—an estimated $6.5 billion—as it has to people who filed legitimate unemployment claims.

Other estimates, according to AP reporting across the states, range from several hundred thousand dollars in smaller states such as Alaska and Wyoming to hundreds of millions in more populous states such as Massachusetts and Ohio.

The nationwide fraud has fed on twin vulnerabilities: a flood of jobless benefit applications since the pandemic began that has overwhelmed state unemployment agencies and antiquated benefit systems that are easy prey for crafty and persistent criminals.

In Ohio, weekly first-time unemployment claims have ranged from 17,000 to more than 40,000 during the pandemic. But since late last month, those claims have topped more than 140,000 some weeks, with many of them believed to be fraudulent. The state has paid at least $330 million in fraudulent pandemic unemployment benefit claims.

Trying to catch so many bogus claims delays payouts to Ohioans who are legitimately in need of help. In the Columbus suburb of Upper Arlington, Cynthia Sbertoli was receiving $228 a week after she was laid off in March from her job with a nonprofit that runs high school student exchange programs.

Her benefits were put on hold in January after she informed the state that someone had tried to use her identity in a scam to claim benefits. She thought the problem was resolved but has yet to see a renewal of her benefit checks, which she and her husband use to help pay for a son's vision and auditory therapy.

"It's just not a good way to take care of people," said Sbertoli, 49.

In Indiana, Kentucky and Maryland, officials have said that for certain weeks in the new year at least two-thirds of the claims they received were classified as suspicious due to problems verifying identities. It's not the first brush with serious fraud for Maryland. In July, officials said they'd discovered a massive criminal enterprise that had stolen more than $500 million in unemployment benefits.

Among states that have been hardest hit are those participating in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program adopted by Congress last year. It has been a lifeline for out-of-work freelancers and gig workers who normally don't qualify for unemployment insurance, but it's also been a boon for criminals who use stolen identities to make claims. Nearly 800,000 of the 1.4 million claims Ohio has received through this program have been tagged for potential fraud.

Scams have been so widespread that the U.S. Department of Justice is setting aside money to hire more prosecutors. In New York alone, the Department of Labor says it has referred "hundreds of thousands of fraud cases" to federal prosecutors. The state says it has blocked $5.5 billion in fraudulent claims, while New Jersey says it's prevented $2.5 billion from flowing into the hands of criminals.

Despite those efforts, a government watchdog agency says not enough states are taking the necessary steps to prevent fraud.

In its memo this past week, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General said that by the end of last year, 22 of the 54 state and territorial workforce agencies were still not following its repeated recommendation to join a data exchange run by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies.

That system is designed to check Social Security numbers used in claims to see if they are being used in multiple states, or are linked to dead people or other scam methods. The office said it had found $5.4 billion in fraudulent payments from March through October.

The biggest chunk of that, $3.5 billion, came through claims that used the same Social Security numbers in multiple states. One number was used on claims in 40 states. Twenty-nine of the states paid those claims, totaling more than $220,000.

"The Department needs to take immediate action and increase its efforts to ensure (states) implement effective controls to mitigate fraud in these high risk areas," the inspector general warned Labor officials.

The people whose identities are used to claim improper benefits often don't find out until they receive their tax statements.

Andrew Heidtke received a letter in September from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development notifying him that unemployment claims he never applied for were being processed.

"I had no idea what was happening," said Heidtke, who works as an administrative assistant for an engineering lobbying organization. "I kind of just thought it was spam at first."

GAS

From Page 1

means that fuel on the two islands have now breached the $5 mark.

After a brief phone call to Tinian and Rota's gas stations, it was learned that gas prices there have been increased by 10 cents, with Rota gas now at $5.77 per gallon, and Tinian at $6.11 per gallon.

"Today, gas is $6.12 a gallon on Tinian, and people are having a fit," one Tinian resident stated in an email message.

Another Tinian resident agreed, saying, "Gas prices have always been an issue here, but having only one station in operation makes it almost easy to bear." The resident, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, added that it is generally understood that prices are much higher based on location and shipping prices but, at the end of the day, "it is a commodity that we can't live without."

Shell Marianas, for the time being, remains at its current price but it is expected to follow suit with the increase. Both companies typically mirror each other's price adjustments.

Mobil raised yesterday its price for a gallon of Extra fuel from $4.30 per gallon to $4.40. The price of its Supreme fuel went up from $4.75 per gallon to $4.85 per gallon. Mobil's Diesel is now $4.58 per gallon.

Cabrera named to dean's list at Hollins

ROANOKE, Va.—Gedin Auria Cabrera a junior psychology major at Hollins University, has been named to the dean's list for the 2020 fall semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale.

Cabrera is the daughter of Steven and Geraldine Cabrera of Northern Mariana Islands, and is a graduate of Kagman High School.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate education to women, selected graduate programs for men and women, and community outreach initiatives. Its distinctions include a nationally ranked creative writing program, one of the oldest study abroad programs in the country, and extensive internship opportunities. ***(PR)***

CHCC

From Page 1

in this week.

According to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña the shipment of 9,360 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and 4,600 Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccine is expected this week, but there has yet to be a confirmed shipment date.

As for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Muña said that the CNMI was allocated 400 doses and those doses were ordered on March 1.

According to several media outlets, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a one-dose vaccine that is said to protect against moderate to severe COVID-19 disease two weeks after people get vaccinated. Within four weeks of getting the shot, clinical trial shows that there were no hospitalizations or deaths.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who initially announced the shipment of the 13,000 vaccines, said in his newsletter that this is a 20% increase over the February allocation of the Pfizer vaccine, and a 43% increase in the February allocation of the Moderna vaccine.

With these additions, it brings a total allocation of 30,810 doses for the Pfizer vaccine, and 12,800 doses of the Moderna vaccine.

According to the CHCC's dashboard, 10,375 people on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have already received their first COVID-19 vaccine doses, while 7,441 has completed the two-dose series.

As CHCC prepares for more allocations, their closing date for full-time temporary hires for the COVID-19 Mass Vaccinations Operations is today, March 2.

CHCC is currently looking for staff to assist in the vaccination efforts. The temporary positions will not include benefits and will last for three to six months. Applications can be found at https://chcc.gov.mp/jobopportunities.php.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Joint Information Center in Guam said that Guam had run out of vaccines by last Friday–even for those who already had appointments. JIC said that the delay is due to a global demand which affected the supply of the vaccine.

For those scheduled for vaccinations last Saturday, they would have to wait about a week for March's allocations of COVID-19 vaccines to arrive.

FAMILY

From Page 1

Additionally, Alam said, the Miah family has suffered economic and non-economic damages, severe pain and suffering, emotional and mental distress, and decreased wellbeing.

In Alam's filing at the U.S. District Court for the NMI, he said that Fabia had a duty to drive reasonably to avoid unreasonable risk of harm to himself and others, and to obey all traffic laws and signs to avoid putting others at risk.

Alam accused Fabia of driving Artman's truck in a "reckless, negligent, and dangerous manner on a public road" and failed to stop at a red light at a traffic intersection, causing Miah to be killed.

Miah's family, through Alam, wants a jury trial.

Additionally, the family is seeking compensatory damages, economic and non-economic damages, plus reasonable medical expenses, hospital, funeral, and other related costs incurred because of Miah's death, and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Miah and Rommel Irang were thrown from the back of a Honda Ridgeline pickup truck when it collided with the Artman dump truck at the Puerto Rico intersection. Irang, who was injured in the crash, is also suing Artman and Fabia.

Increase in global fuel prices results in FAC hike

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been an increase in the average international fuel oil prices that will affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge.

As a result, the current FAC rate of $0.14704 per kWh has increased to $0.16578 per kWh effective March 1, 2021. Residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately $9.37 more in their monthly billing.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. ***(PR)***

UOG named Military Friendly School

The University of Guam has, for the second year in a row, earned a place on the Military Friendly Schools list, which will be published in the May issue of *G.I.Jobs* magazine. A total of 747 schools nationwide made the 2021–2022 list out of 1,200 schools that completed the required survey.

The University of Guam additionally earned the bronze distinction on the list, meaning its score ranked within 30% of the top 10 schools in its category of small public schools.

The Military Friendly Schools list is a guide of institutions that have favorable rates among veteran students and their families as far as retention and persistence toward their degree, graduation, job placement, and loan repayment and default rates.

"Every year that we earn this designation is a sign of our dedication to our region's veterans and their families," said Lawrence F. Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success at the university. "We're continually working to add programs and services specifically to serve their needs in obtaining their degrees."

The University of Guam has 161 veteran and military dependent students enrolled. The university offers in-state tuition to all military students and specific scholarship opportunities as well as several military-specific student services, including tutoring and study skills workshops, counseling services specializing in anxiety and PTSD, career guidance, accommodations for students with disabilities, networking events, and a Veteran Resource Center.

"Schools who achieve designation show true commitment and dedication in their efforts," said Kayla Lopez, national director of military partnerships for Military Friendly. "Our standards assist schools by providing a benchmark that promotes positive educational outcomes, resources, and support services that better the educational landscape and provide opportunity for the military community."

The schools are scored based on public data from federal agencies and survey information from the participating organizations. The criteria and scoring methodology were determined by Viqtory, a veteran-owned small business that connects the military community to employment, educational, and entrepreneurial opportunities, with input from a council of independent leaders in higher education and military recruitment.

"Military Friendly is committed to transparency and providing consistent data-driven standards in our designation process," Lopez said. "This creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to consistently evolve and invest in their programs."

In addition to the May issue of *G.I.Jobs* magazine, the list is also published at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Veterans, active-duty service members, and dependents interested in attending the University of Guam can visit https://url.uog.edu/military for more information. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5.1-magnitude quake in Guam

At 9:27am on Feb. 25, 2021, a report of a 5.1-magnitude earthquake occurred 32 kilometers north-northwest of Yigo Village, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Guam PTAC sets free webinars

March 2021 is Small Business Certification month at the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center. Join us every Thursday as we show you how to get one of the Small Business Administration's official, small business certifications. Webinars run from **10am to 11:30am** and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **March 4 – How to get HUBZone Certified** – All of Guam and the CNMI are HUBZones. The Guam PTAC will take you through the certification process, the required supporting documents, and follow-up requirements from SBA.

■ **March 11 – How to get 8(a) Certified** – The SBA's 8(a) Program was created to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal procurement market. The Guam PTAC will guide you through the 8(a) requirements and online application.

■ **March 18 – How to get Women-Owned Small Business Certified** – WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss eligibility requirements, supporting documents, and the new, online application.

■ **March 25 – SBA Mentor-Protégé Program** – The SBA's All Small Business Mentor-Protégé program is modeled after the 8(a) Mentor-Protégé Program. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Register on our website, http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

AK SINCE 1914
Signature
USED CARS
AKSAIPAN.COM
Call me
MARK SABLAN
234-5911
MANAGER'S SPECIAL
2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C FWD HB
Hybrid, 1-Speed CVT w/OD
Mileage: 39,651, Stock # SP21F0014
NOW $12,999*
2017 TOYOTA COROLLA
Classic Silver Metallic,
Variable Speed Automatic CVT w/ OD
Mileage: 52,776, Stock # SP20F0208
NOW $14,494*
2019 TOYOTA YARIS
Mileage: 11,940
Stock # SP21R0006
NOW $14,799*
2017 CHEVROLET CITY EXPRESS
FWD Cargo Van
Mileage: 11,601, Stock # SP20P0134
NOW $14,999*
2017 TOYOTA SIENNA
FWD Mini-van, Passenger
8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Super White
Mileage: 73,341, STOCK #: SP21F0012
NOW $16,999*
2016 TOYOTA SIENNA
FWD Mini-van, Passenger
Salsa Red Pearl, 6-Speed Automatic w/OD
Mileage: 50,199, Stock # SP20F0214
NOW $17,494*
2017 TOYOTA SIENNA
FWD Mini-van, Passenger,
8-Speed Automatic w/OD
Mileage: 52,291, Stock # SP20F0192
NOW $18,499*
2021 RAV4
4 Real life
RAV4 LE AS LOW AS
$160*
PER PAYCHECK
FREE 65" SAMSUNG SMART TV*
WITH YOUR NEW 2021 TOYOTA RAV4
*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details. RAV4 LE SP $29.999. Monthly payment $347.18. Total deferred, $27,079.90. 3.75% APR with 78 months term financing and 20% down payment. Per paycheck based on 26 pay periods. Vehicle not exactly as shown.
*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details. Fees not included. Mileage may vary.
Visit our showroom today: Monday-Saturday 8am to 5pm
ONLINE SHOPPER
www.aksaipan.com
Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950
HERE FOR SAIPAN. HERE FOR LIFE.

H-2B cap reached for second half of fiscal year 2021

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to meet the congressionally mandated H-2B cap for the second half of fiscal year 2021.

Feb. 12, 2021, was the final receipt date for new cap-subject H-2B worker petitions requesting an employment start date before Oct. 1, 2021. All cap-subject H-2B petitions received after Feb. 12 that request an employment start date before Oct. 1 will be rejected.

On Feb. 12, the number of beneficiaries for whom USCIS received petitions surpassed the total number of remaining H-2B visas available for the H-2B cap for the second half of FY 2021. In accordance with regulations, USCIS determined it was necessary to use a computer-generated selection process intended to ensure the fair and orderly allocation of H-2B visa cap numbers available, without exceeding the FY 2021 cap. On Feb. 17, we conducted the selection process to randomly select petitions from those received on Feb. 12. Upon completion of this random selection process, we assigned all selected petitions a receipt date and began premium processing services.

We continue to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes petitions for:

■ Current H-2B workers in the United States who wish to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;

Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

■ Workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and/or Guam from Nov. 28, 2009, until Dec. 31, 2029.

■ U.S. businesses use the H-2B program to employ foreign workers for temporary nonagricultural jobs. Congress has set the H-2B cap at 66,000 per fiscal year, with 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the first half of the fiscal year (Oct. 1 - March 31) and 33,000 for workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1 - Sept. 30), plus any unused numbers from the first half of the fiscal year, if any. Unused H-2B numbers from one fiscal year do not carry over into the next fiscal year. ***(PR)***

EYESORE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo submitted by a reader shows trash that have accumulated at the Garapan Fishing Base. In the caption provided by the reader, it said: "So much trash at Pantalan Aleman—the Garapan Fishing Base—right across Kristo Rai Church!"

Women gear up for 2021 Women's Month

Under the banner theme, "Gender Equality: Key to Sustainable Development," the 2021 Women's Month Planning Committee, co-led by the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs Office, has planned a series of events to bring together the community in a collective agenda of empowering all women and girls and advocating for sustainable leadership:

■ Wednesday, March 3, 2021: CNMI Women's Month proclamation signing

■ Thursday, March 4, 2021: "Women As Entrepreneurs: How to start a Business (hosted by NMC-SBDC and CWA)," Votes for Women Exhibit (hosted by JKPL), "Women's Proclamation Day" at 9am (Rota Mayor's Office, conference room)

■ Friday, March 5, 2021: Women's Mass celebration (San Isidro Church at 5pm)

■ Saturday March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2021: Motheread/Fatheread CNMI Family Literacy Class from 1:30pm to 2:30pm (hosted by NMHC/JKPL)

■ Sunday, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 2021: Sirena Project (hosted by 500 Sails) at the Guma Sakman from 11am to 12pm

■ Wednesday, March 10, 2021: *Women Leadership Training"

■ Thursday, March 11, 2021: "Women as Entrepreneurs: How to Write a Business Plan" (hosted by NMC-SBDC and CWA)

■ Monday, March 15, 2021: Outreach; Free Blood Pressure and Glucose Check before Women's Walk-A-Thon at 5:30am (Rota)

■ Thursday, March 18, 2021: "Women As Entrepreneurs: How to Prepare a Financial Plan" (hosted by NMC-SBDC and CWA)

■ Thursday, March 25, 2021: "Women As Entrepreneurs: How to Prepare a Marketing Plan" (hosted by NMC-SBDC and CWA)

■ Friday, March 26, 2021: "Women's Recognition Day" hosted by first lady Diann Torres and second lady Wella Palacios, and "International Women's Day"

■ Sunday, March 28, 2021: "Day of Prayer" (hosted by WAO)

■ Wednesday, March 31, 2021: "Training on Gender Equality," "Women's Health Waving" 4pm at Teteto Pavilion (Rota)

(More activities will be added. Follow our Facebook Pages for updated information: www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen.org and https://www.facebook.com/WAOCNMI)

Government agencies, businesses, education institutions, and other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to participate and get involved in this year's 2021 Women's Month activities. The planning committee is also encouraging the community to host an event by contacting 233-8978/9411 or sending an email to cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com

"Women are at the heart of sustainable development," said Cecilia Taitano, CWA president and 2021 Women's Month co-chair. "As we continue to push for greater action, we have more work to do to connect the issues of gender, sustainability, and climate action."

More details will be shared and added to the CNMI Women's Association Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cnmiwomen.org, or the Women's Affairs Office Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/WAOCNMI. ***(PR)***

Public warned of high surf and rip currents

A high surf advisory is in effect from 6pm last night until 5pm today, Tuesday. There is also a high rip current risk in effect through this afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 8 to 11 feet expected in the surf zone on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in north and west facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until 5pm today. For the high rip current risk, dangerous rip currents expected.

These will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are urged to avoid venturing near reef lines facing north and west. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. ***(PR)***

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/DYS-053
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Oram Co., a CNMI Corporation was dissolved on March 14, 2020. Creditor and person with an outstanding claim against the Company is requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

Oram Co.
PMB 768, Box 10000,
Saipan, MP 96950

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its Special Meeting, to be held on March 2nd, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Bring Meeting to Order

II. Introduction and Public Comment

III. Appointment for SHEFA Signing Authority

IV. Condude Special Meeting and Adjourn

NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Board of Trustees Special Meeting
at NMTI, Lower Base
Monday, March 8, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA

I. **Meeting Called to Order**
II. **Adoption of Agenda**
III. **Public Comments**
IV. **Executive Session**
V. **New Business**
   1. **Transition Transfer**
      a. Appointment of Interim CEO
      b. OPA Audit
      c. Technical Institute Banking accounts
      d. Set up of Trust Fund
      e. Da'ok Academy facility use and contract
      f. Employees and contracts
      g. EDA NMTI Facility Award
VI. **Unfinished Business**

NOTE: *Copies of this notice and agenda have been posted at the Administration Building Entrance Hall, the House of Representatives Entrance Hall and the Senate Entrance Hall. Written comments on the agenda may be submitted to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute through the Office of the Governor (Attn: NMTI) or emailed to: cnmitechnicalinstitute@gmail.com on or before the meeting date. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting on TBD.*

PTK Honor Society at NMC is named a REACH Chapter

Because of an increase in its acceptance rate, the Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa or PTK International Honor Society at the Northern Marianas College is now a 2021 Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors, or REACH, chapter. This is the college's second time to receive the REACH award.

The designation was made through the REACH Rewards program, which rewards chapters who achieve or exceed 15% for their membership acceptance rate. The Beta Lambda Psi chapter reported a 25.3% acceptance rate in 2020 after inducting more than 70 members last fall.

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladcher, president and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa International, congratulated NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico on the achievement.

"Thank you for your support in furthering Phi Theta Kappa's mission of providing recognition and opportunity to students on your campus," Tincher-Ladcher said. "The dedication of both you and your chapter [advisers] to enhancing the college experience and the lives of students amid the numerous challenges 2020 presented is truly appreciated and more important than ever before."

The Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa or PTK International Honor Society at the Northern Marianas College was awarded as a 2021 Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors, or REACH, chapter. This is the chapter's second time receiving the award.

As part of becoming a 2021 REACH chapter, the college will be sent seven PTK stoles for its members and officers to wear during graduation.

"It's great to see that despite having to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, our students continue to be focused and excel in their work," said Eliptico. "We thank the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for awarding our college this designation."

"It's fulfilling to see our local PTK chapter continuing to grow since we revitalized the chapter in 2019 following Super Typhoon Yutu," said PTK adviser Kaelani Demapan. "This growth begins with our students and is supported by our NMC family under… Eliptico. Our current and past officers have committed so much time and effort into spreading the awareness and value of this honor society and we are thankful to receive the REACH awards for a second time in a row."

Established by Missouri two-year college presidents in 1918, the PTK Honor Society recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development thorough honors, leadership, and service programming.

For more information about the Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at NMC, contact chapter president Jamerie Paras (jamerie.paras@my.marianas.edu) or any one of the advisers: Kaelani Demapan (kaelani.demapan@marianas.edu), Alexis Cabrera (alexis.cabrera@marianas.edu), Geri Hofschneider (geri.hofschneider@marianas.edu), and William Hunter (william.hunter@marianas.edu). ***(PR)***

Torres, GCEA to speak at SCC membership meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is hosting its March general membership meeting tomorrow, March 3, 2021 at Hyatt Regency Ballroom, with Gov. Ralph Torres and some members of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers sharing their 2020 GCEA annual report.

This month's meeting will begin earlier than other general membership meeting of the chamber. Doors open at 10:30am, a plate lunch will be served at 11am and the meeting will begin promptly at 11:30am. The luncheon fee is $25 for chamber members and $35 for non-members.

Besides Torres, others who will be speaking at the meeting are GCEA co-chair Jerry Tan, Alex Sablan, Matt Deleon Guerrero, and Mike Sablan.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, RSVP is required to attend the general membership meeting. To RSVP, visit https://tinyurl.com/Mar2021GMM, call the chamber office at (670) 234-7150, or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com before 9am on Wednesday, March 3. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2021-013	CDBG-DR Housing Supervisor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum	February 15, 2021	March 02, 2021, 4:00 PM
2021-014	CDBG-DR Housing Specialist (2-Positions)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	February 15, 2021	March 02, 2021, 4:00 PM
2021-015	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	February 15, 2021	March 02, 2021, 4:00 PM
2021-016	CDBG-DR Project Manager (1-Position)	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $60,000.00 per annum	February 16, 2021	March 03, 2021, 4:00 PM
2021-017	CDBG-DR Project Supervisor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $35,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum	February 18, 2021	March 05, 2021, 4:00 PM
2021-018	CDBG-DR Loan Supervisor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $35,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum	February 18, 2021	March 05, 2021, 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is now conducting the CNMI 2021 Prevailing Wage Study (PWS) survey and notifies all businesses and employers in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the PWS survey questionnaire.

All private businesses, public agencies, and organizations in the CNMI, with and without employees, are urged to participate in the 2021 PWS survey.

The survey data collection period will begin on March 1, 2021, and end on March 31, 2021.

Data Collection Portal Link: https://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 42
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Citizen Parton

If you have recently gone off the grid you may have missed the great singer and country icon Dolly Parton's latest acts of generosity and humility.

Some folks in the Tennessee legislature wanted to erect a statue of her. She said, "No thanks."

Maybe one day, she said, after I am dead, "if you still think I deserve it."

This is not a time for putting people on pedestals, she said.

Meanwhile, she said she would continue to try to do good work and make her state proud.

One blogger remarked, "good Lord, like we needed another reason to love this woman."

Most everybody loves Dolly Parton because she is fun, genuine and greatly talented.

But she is a proper object of universal admiration, too.

Because she is a selfless and truly humble citizen.

She created a foundation that helps teach kids to read—the Imagination Library sends free books to youngsters.

She has created good-paying jobs at Dollywood.

A few years ago, she donated $1 million to a Tennessee children's hospital.

This year she gave Vanderbilt University Medical Center another cool million for coronavirus research.

And, all along the way, she has helped fund a wide range of good causes—senior centers, bald eagle habitats, animal rights groups and HIV/AIDS charities.

And that's not an exhaustive list.

She doesn't just write checks, either. She follows up on her causes and charities and involves herself in how they can grow.

People don't know the full extent of her charitable work because she doesn't want them to.

Awards and recognition are nice, she says, but not why she does anything she does.

Recently Parton delayed her coronavirus vaccine shot, though she is eligible at 75. She said she'll get it in due course. But others need it more and she did not want to be seen as "jumping the line" because she is an important person.

She is also reluctant to accept the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She harbors doubts that she really deserves it and does not want to be seen as playing politics by accepting it from President Joe Biden when she was unable to do so twice from President Donald Trump (first because of a family illness, then because of coronavirus concerns).

Her sincerity and humility are as clear and mighty as her voice.

Yes, her humility is mighty.

The medal has been greatly devalued and diminished in recent years. President Barack Obama gave it to a score of Hollywood A-types who were his buds. President Donald Trump gave it to cronies and political hacks who defended him.

The Medal of Freedom is for American heroes—people who have made a unique contribution to American life, or people who, for years and years, again and again, put neighbor and community and country ahead of self. We are talking about people like Jonas Salk, and John Lewis, and Fred Rogers, and James Farmer, and Rachel Carson, and Sargent Shriver.

Dolly Parton qualifies on both criteria. If ever there was an American hero, it is she.

©2021 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Judge ©2021 KING FEATURES
NASA
CLIMATE CHANGE
AIR POLLUTION
DOMESTIC TERROR-ISM
COVID -19
Q ANON
GUN NUTS
NASA WANTS TO KNOW IF PAST LIFE EVER EXISTED ON MARS..
THE REST OF US WANT TO KNOW IF PRESENT LIFE WILL CONTINUE ON EARTH.

Can we reclaim lost decency and courage?

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for *Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

In these pandemic days, when social distancing is not just polite but public policy, you would think famous former government officials, whose titles alone could fill a place to capacity, would know better than to cluster enthusiastically just to help an old friend.

But if you'd been in the Senate Intelligence Committee's hearing room Wednesday you'd have realized that you were watching and listening to decades of Washington's most famous titled newsmakers who were so eager to help they were virtually speaking at once.

You'd have recognized the famous Republican newsmakers: President Gerald Ford's undersecretary of commerce, Ford's presidential campaign manager, President Ronald Reagan's chief of staff, Reagan's treasury secretary, President George H.W. Bush's 1980 and 1988 presidential campaign managers, G.H.W. Bush's secretary of state, G.H.W. Bush's chief of staff.

And the famous Democrats: the once-powerful House Budget Committee chairman, President Bill Clinton's chief of staff, Clinton's director of the Office of Management and Budget, President Barack Obama's CIA director, Obama's defense secretary. And you might have realized there was one long-ago Republican interloper there in that Democratic cluster: President Richard Nixon's first director of the Health Education and Welfare department's Office of Civil Rights, who seemed quite comfortable to be there, sharing the sentiments of all those Democrats.

Which is to say: James A. Baker III and Leon Panetta—who between them seem to have held just about every title Washington has to offer—were all of the above. They were there virtually, as one of the most impressive bipartisan tag-teams ever to grace a congressional hearing. Speaking separately, from their offices in Houston and Santa Clara, California (where they oversee university institutes that bear their names), they were introducing—and profusely recommending for quick Senate confirmation—President Joe Biden's nominee for director of the Central Intelligence Agency, longtime prominent diplomat William Burns.

Baker and Panetta spoke of all the global crises they dealt with during their decades, and praised Burns' important work to their successful outcomes. (Panetta talked of their work in the Situation Room on the mission that captured Osama bin Laden.)

"In my opinion," Baker concluded, "this confirmation should be a bipartisan no-brainer."

Frankly, I assigned myself to cover that hearing because I was seeking a feel-good moment of journalistic R-&-R. I wanted to see if there is indeed a hope that patriotic bipartisanship in global crises can still exist in this place that has become Hate City. I wanted to see if there's at least a chance that patriotism and principle can ever again trump politics—as it used to back in the days when I first met, covered and came to respect Panetta and soon after, Baker.

And yes, Panetta was that young Republican I first covered back when he was displeasing Nixon by pushing for quick desegregation of schools in the South. Nixon had struck a deal with Strom Thurmond's gang, promising he'd have a go-slow "Southern strategy." Nixon's team forced Panetta out of his job. The next time Panetta came to town, he was that Democratic congressman from California.

Soon after, I met Jim Baker on his first day as Jerry Ford's 1976 campaign manager. We were onboard a campaign train whistle-stopping down the state of Illinois when we were introduced by Ford's young chief of staff—a fellow named Dick Cheney. He now makes it into the news only when his daughter makes news.

And speaking of Liz Cheney, it's indeed worth noting that she has now made news not because she happens to be the most hard-line and most principled conservative Republican in the House. She has become controversial in her own shipwrecked party because she had the guts and patriotic principles to tell her voters the tough truth they needed to hear – but weren't getting from most of her fellow Republicans. Namely that their Republican supreme leader, the president, had been lying to them by claiming he won reelection in a landslide.

She was honest with her fellow Republicans. She is paying the political price that comes with becoming a profile in courage. She told the truth about the insurrection of Jan. 6. And, also on Wednesday, she again spoke truth to power – the power of the people – in an appearance at the Reagan Institute.

"What happened on that day must never happen again," she said. "And we must not look away or trivialize it. … The freedom that we all defend belongs not to us. It belongs to our children and grandchildren. To them, we owe fidelity to the Constitution and a duty to uphold our oath, an oath we swore under God, to do everything necessary to defend it.

"We will right the unforgivable wrongs of Jan. 6. We will make our party worthy once again of the mantle of Lincoln and of Reagan."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Q: Should former President Donald Trump be banned permanently from Facebook?

PRO Facebook was key to the Trump insurrection

By ADAM CONNER
InsideSources.com

Adam Conner is the vice president for technology policy at the Center for American Progress. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

A visit to Donald Trump's now-defunct Facebook page is to stroll through the vestiges of his campaigns and his presidency: posts full of racism, of name calling and attacks, and ads full of outright lies.

Civil rights groups and activists have long pointed out that Facebook's treatment of Trump is utterly unique: no other individual would be allowed to act like he did on the platform. Trump was allowed to stay only because Facebook essentially rewrote its rules for all politicians, in an attempt preemptively to allow Trump's bad behavior. Even despite these political accommodations from Facebook, Trump still routinely violated those few rules that remained.

While the U.S. Capitol was under assault on Jan. 6, then-president Trump posted a series of messages and videos to his Facebook page half-heartedly telling the insurrectionists—who were still in the building—to go home. He could not resist repeating his big lie about the stolen election, telling them in a video, "We love you. You're very special." He followed with a falsehood-filled post that said, "These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly unfairly treated for so long."

These posts were cited as the reason that Facebook decided to suspend temporarily Trump from Facebook and Instagram on Jan. 6 and to extend it indefinitely the next day. On Jan. 21, the day after Joe Biden was sworn in as president, Facebook exercised its sole privilege to refer the suspension of Trump to the Facebook Oversight Board. Facebook created and funded the board in 2017 to serve as a place for appeals and review of a limited set of its content moderation decisions, strategically excluding posts it leaves up and ads. The Facebook Oversight Board will now determine if Trump will be allowed back on Facebook or not.

Even if you believe that the vile misuse of Trump's Facebook page was acceptable before the election, Trump's actions after the polls closed are clear grounds for his permanent removal from Facebook. Between Nov. 4, 2020, and Jan. 6, 2021, Trump waged a campaign, largely through social media, to discredit the election results and perpetuate the big lie that the election had been stolen.

This effort started only hours after polls closed on Nov. 3. Trump followed through on what he had threatened to do for months: against all available evidence, he claimed the election had been stolen. Early the next day, he posted, "We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election. We will never let them do it."

Over the coming weeks, he unleashed more than 760 Facebook posts in an attempt to delegitimize the election.

After the election, Trump removed himself from the public spotlight, appearing in public and on camera 28 times in the 65 days—practically invisible for a sitting president. However, while the president was absent from the public eye, he was attempting a coup online: using his Facebook page, in addition to his Twitter account, to promote relentlessly his big lie of the stolen election.

His Facebook posts included frequent lies that the election was stolen and promotion of the infamous Jan. 6 rally itself. Perhaps most shocking was a Facebook post attacking Vice President Mike Pence, which went up while he and his family were being evacuated from the Senate only 100 feet away from a violent mob chanting "hang Mike Pence!" In fact, when the impeachment brief filed by the House cited 29 of Trump's tweets, 25 of those tweets also appeared in an almost identical form on his Facebook page.

Together, all of these factors show that Trump's Facebook page was an essential tool in his attempts to delegitimize the election, gather the crowd on Jan. 6, and encourage them to violence while they were still in the building. It is telling that many consider Twitter and Facebook's suspension of Trump's accounts following Jan. 6 to be one of the critical components to the transfer of power on Jan. 20.

Trump has shown that once he loses an election, his primary use of Facebook is to delegitimize our elections and attempt to overthrow our government. It is clear that if he's allowed back on Facebook, he'll go right back to assaulting the fundamentals of our democratic system. The Oversight Board must permanently suspend Donald Trump from Facebook.

CON Facebook can ban Trump permanently, but shouldn't

By MARK JAMISON
InsideSources.com

Mark Jamison is a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, where he works on how technology affects the economy, and on telecommunications and Federal Communications Commission issues. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

The question of a permanent ban is about whether Facebook's "supreme court" should institute one, not whether Facebook has the legal right. I'll stipulate the legal right and limit myself to what I believe would be a ban's negative effects on society and on Facebook's business.

The freedom to speak, hear and explore controversial ideas, even disturbing ones, is critical for a free society. The importance of this liberty extends beyond legal freedom of speech—which was the major concern over two centuries ago when only government could meaningfully stifle the exchange of ideas. Now, private organizations such as Facebook are powerful enough to control others' speech at critical times, such as during a public controversy or an election. Facebook should recognize its outsize role and view itself not just as a supplier of advertising but as also providing a fabric for society where freedom should abound and do its work.

There are several reasons this freedom is important. Among them are America's need for a vibrant marketplace of ideas, the impossibility of overlords managing speech in society's best interests, and its role in developing vigorous and anti-fragile minds. Competition between ideas is important because truth is hard to know, and knowledge is always evolving. Centuries ago, King Solomon observed that wise people love to be challenged. Today, scientific research constantly expands what we can know, proving previously accepted truths to be false and demonstrating the limits to humanity's mental abilities. Competition is necessary to produce the evidence needed to better understand our world.

Oversight boards are also subject to these limitations, which is one reason freedom is a superior means for determining what people should debate and believe. Additionally, when such power is concentrated in the hands of a few, they often use it for their own benefit—and to the detriment of their rivals. This insight is one reason America embraces democratic principles and is wary of concentrated power.

Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) is believed to have said that life never stops teaching. Centuries later, Abigail Adams advised her son, John Quincy Adams, that great character and minds are not developed in calmness, but in contending with great difficulties. Now, research shows that mental challenges cause physical improvements in our brains' abilities to think, and that emotional challenges enable us to become anti-fragile. Free speech presents both types of challenges, making it crucial for individual and societal resilience.

Besides diminishing free speech, a permanent ban would further Facebook's political entanglements. Facebook started becoming an important political tool years ago when it reached out to politicians and taught them to use Facebook for seeking and organizing voters. One of its first customers was then-Illinois state Sen. Barack Obama. The entanglement grew when Facebook used its influence to favor President Obama in his reelection campaign against Mitt Romney, according to Obama campaign official Carol Davidson.

In the 2020 campaign season, Facebook fully embraced its political role when it actively labeled some posts as misinformation, hired fact checkers, and sought to edit the post-election public dialogue concerning the election's legitimacy.

Facebook's growing influence as a player, not just a platform, is evidenced by the intensity with which politicians pressure the company to treat their side as truth and goodness—and their opponents' side as false, corrupt and dangerous. Demonstrating willingness to permanently deplatform a prominent politician will make control of Facebook an even more attractive political prize.

Proponents of the ban would likely counter that the nature of Donald Trump's speech and his ability to monopolize attention make him a destructive outlier. But his comments, as best I can tell, are not unusual today. His political opponents and media critics have called for physical intimidation of Trump supporters, expressed hatred for them, likened them to history's worst murderers and oppressors, and mocked them as lacking intelligence and morals. So it is hard objectively to see him as an outlier in his substance. If he is banned while these others not, the ban would seem little more than a political act.

Supporters of a ban are right that Trump has an unusual ability to influence. But a person's persuasive skills aren't a reason for bans from a politically valuable platform. If it were, then Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez should be next, as her abilities in that area are a close match for Trump's skill.

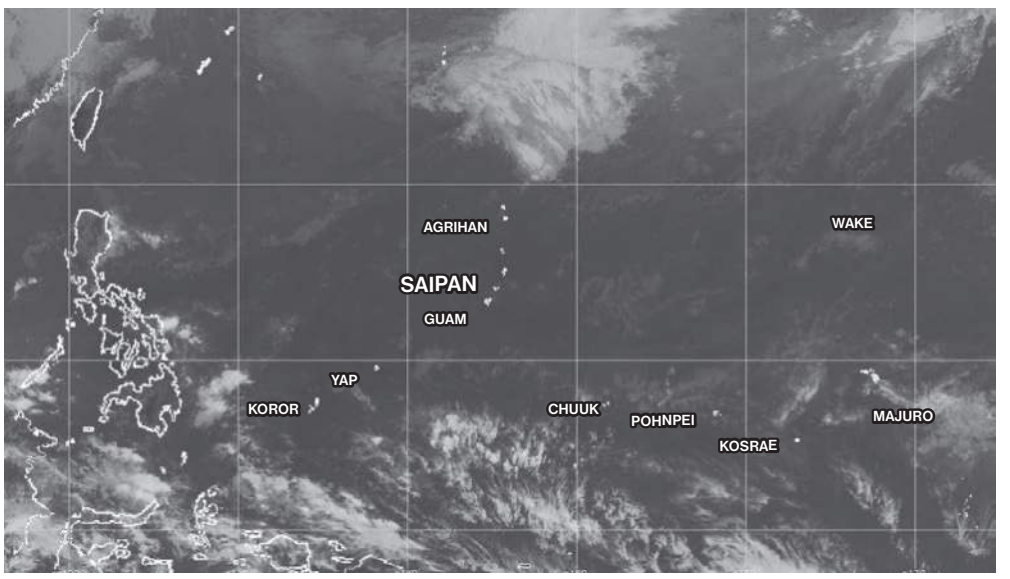
Facebook should demonstrate its commitment to communities that thrive in adversity, not communities that shrink from it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87º / 77º	87º / 77º	86º / 76º	86º / 76º	87º / 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:29 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows patchy trade-wind cloudiness and a few light showers passing through the Marianas this morning. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet composed of east trade-wind waves and swell plus a north-northwest swell from winter storms moving off Japan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	84º / 76º
Palau	Thunderstorm	83º / 78º
Yap	Thunderstorm	83º / 78º
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86º / 80º
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85º / 79º
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85º / 79º
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85º / 80º

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:41 AM	9:18 PM
Wednesday	-	9:25 AM	10:16 PM
Thursday	-	10:11 AM	11:16 PM
Friday	-	11:00 AM	5:09 AM
Saturday	12:18 AM	11:52 AM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	77º / 66º
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	41º / 25º
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	72º / 63º
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	76º / 65º
London	Showers	52º / 46º
Los Angeles	Sunny	70º / 49º
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88º / 75º
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	75º / 55º
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77º / 65º
New York	Mostly Sunny	47º / 32º
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	46º / 36º
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	52º / 45º
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	48º / 28º
Rome	Cloudy	61º / 52º
Salem	Mostly Sunny	70º / 49º
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	38º / 17º
Seoul	Sunny	36º / 23º
Tokyo	Sunny	48º / 36º
Washington, DC	Cloudy	50º / 36º

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:44 AM	Low Tide	0.01
9:57 AM	High Tide	1.89
4:17 PM	Low Tide	0.39
9:59 PM	High Tide	1.81

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 6
UA117	7:00am	7:40am	4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 6
UA174	5:15am	5:56am	4

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:55pm	5:56am+1	3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	5
UA184	10:55pm	4:40am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

CHINEN ICE CANDY

Taste of childhood

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Chinen Ice Candy is still the cold dessert of choice for most locals, especially for those who grew up in '70s, '80s, and '90s who just couldn't resist the numbing sweet syrupy goodness of "ice keki."

It has become so ingrained in the CNMI's culture that service members assigned abroad usually have Chinen Ice Candy at the top of their care package list and order all its five different flavors—soda (blue), melon (green), pineapple (yellow), orange (orange), and strawberry (pink).

MARK RABAGO

Chinen Ice Candy owner Emerencian Chinen holds up their five flavors—soda (blue), melon (green), pineapple (yellow), orange (orange), and strawberry (pink).

Even neighboring Guam hasn't escaped the lure of the little treat, as former Saipan residents who have relocated to the U.S. territory have shared Chinen Ice Candy with their neighbors. As a result, those coming to Saipan from Guam are usually inundated with requests to bring Chinen Ice Candy as "pasalubong" on their return.

For more information or for bulk orders in advance, call 234-6233.

Chinen Ice Candy was established in 1972 by Toshinori Chinen, who originally was from Okinawa, Japan. Since his untimely death in 2013, his widow, Emerenciana, has been managing Chinen Ice Candy.

MARK RABAGO

Chinen Ice Candy can be bought at the company's doorstep along Puti Tainobue Avenue in Garapan in the street right after D'Elegance Restaurant and a stone's throw away from Holiday Saipan hotel and Healing Stone Spa.

MARK RABAGO

Chinen Ice Candy doesn't make ice candy everyday anymore like it used to and only produces about 25,000 pieces in one batch.

"At first my husband used to walk around the neighborhood to sell ice candy and when people learned about how good the ice candy is, they always seem to come to the street and wait for him," she said.

Through Toshinori Chinen's hard work and perseverance, Chinen Ice Candy soon flourished and he was able to buy a small van and began to sell to stores around the island.

"After school he used to park his small van in front of Mount Carmel School and wait for the children to come and buy ice candy. Sometimes he played 'Jack En Poy' (rock, paper, scissors) with the kids and challenged them and if they win he gave them free ice candy. Sometimes if the kids don't have enough money, he still gives them ice candy," said Emerenciana Chinen.

Toshinori Chinen simply loved children and that was why he joked and played with them while doing his rounds selling ice candy.

"Eventually, not only children but even adults would come to love his ice candy and they began calling him 'Mr. Ice Keki Man.' You know, he talks and jokes a lot, maybe that is the reason it became popular until now," she said.

Chinen Ice Candy, however, has been on a slide since Typhoon Soudelor ravaged the islands in 2015 and its sales continued to decline more due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

"We don't make ice candy everyday anymore like we used to. When we do make ice candy we produce about 25,000 pieces in one batch. We also used to deliver to different stores on island from Kagman to Koblerville, but after Typhoon Soudelor we no longer do any deliveries to stores. We were badly affected by the typhoon."

To make matters worse, the pandemic essentially shut down Chinen Ice Candy's imports to Guam. "Most of our customers are from Guam and some locals buy ice candy and send it to the U.S. Also locals who join the military would ask their family here to send them ice candy in Iraq and Afghanistan. When the pandemic started, the business was still okay but when they stopped flights to and from Guam it really affected our business. This time it's hard to make a plan. …We don't really know what will happen next," added Emerciana Chinen.

She has not lost hope and is planning to soon revive the company's delivery service to groceries and other markets on Saipan. "This is my husband's legacy and I will continue to take care of this business. And to our customer, I want to thank you for your continued support even years after my husband passed," she said.

For now, Chinen Ice Candy can be bought at the company's doorstep along Puti Tainobue Avenue in Garapan in the street right after D'Elegance Restaurant and a stone's throw away from Holiday Saipan hotel and Healing Stone Spa. For more information or for bulk orders in advance, call 234-6233.

Biden team readies wider economic package after virus relief

WASHINGTON (AP)—Looking beyond the $1.9 trillion COVID relief bill, President Joe Biden and lawmakers are laying the groundwork for another top legislative priority—a long-sought boost to the nation's roads, bridges and other infrastructure that could run into Republican resistance to a hefty price tag.

Biden and his team have begun discussions on the possible outlines of an infrastructure package with members of Congress, particularly mindful that Texas' recent struggles with power outages and water shortages after a brutal winter storm present an opportunity for agreement on sustained spending on infrastructure.

Republicans say if the White House approach on the COVID relief bill—which passed the House Saturday on a near party-line vote and now heads to the Senate—is a sign of things to come for Biden's plan on infrastructure and other initiatives, it could be a difficult road ahead in Congress.

A White House proposal could come out in March.

"Now is the time to be aggressive," said Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, a former South Bend, Indiana, mayor who knows potholes.

At a conference with state and local highway officials Thursday, he referred to the often-promised, never-achieved mega-initiative on roads, bridges and the like from the Trump administration.

"I know you are among those who are working and waiting most patiently, or maybe impatiently, for the moment when Infrastructure Week will no longer be a kind of Groundhog's Day promise—but actually be something that delivers generational investments," he said.

Much of America's infrastructure—roads, bridges, public drinking and water systems, dams, airports, mass transit systems and more—is in need of major restoration after years of underfunding, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. In its 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, it gave the national infrastructure an overall grade of D+.

Warren Buffett again encourages investors to bet on America

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett encouraged investors to maintain their faith in America's economy and the businesses his Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate owns in a reassuring letter to his shareholders Saturday.

Buffett hardly even addressed the coronavirus that ravaged many businesses last year, instead focusing on the long-term prospects for the railroad, utility and insurance businesses and stocks that belong to Berkshire Hathaway. But he said U.S. business will thrive over time in spite of the pandemic.

"In its brief 232 years of existence, however, there has been no incubator for unleashing human potential like America. Despite some severe interruptions, our country's economic progress has been breathtaking," Buffett wrote.

Buffett's annual letter is always well read in the business world because of his remarkably successful track record and his knack for explaining complicated subjects in simple terms.

But he didn't offer much explanation for why Berkshire hasn't made a major acquisition in several years or discuss the company's recent major new investments in Verizon Communications and Chevron, leaving many investors wanting more.

Nation

Trump calls for GOP unity, repeats lies about election loss

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Taking the stage for the first time since leaving office, former President Donald Trump on Sunday called for GOP unity, even as he exacerbated intraparty divisions by attacking fellow Republicans and promoting lies about the election in a speech that made clear he intends to remain a dominant political force.

Speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference, where he has been hailed as a returning hero, Trump blasted his successor, President Joe Biden, and tried to lay out a vision for the future of the GOP that revolves firmly around him, despite his loss in November.

"Do you miss me yet?" Trump said after taking the stage to his old rally soundtrack and cheers from the supportive crowd.

Trump, in his speech, tried to downplay the civil war gripping the party over the extent to which Republicans should embrace him, even as he unfurled an enemies list, calling out by name the 10 House Republicans and seven GOP senators who voted to impeach or convict him for inciting the U.S. Capitol riot. He ended by singling out Rep. Liz Cheney, the No. 3 House Republican, who has faced tremendous backlash in Wyoming for saying Trump should no longer play a role in the party or headline the event.

While he insisted the division was merely a spat "between a handful of Washington, D.C., establishment political hacks and everybody else, all over the country," Trump had a message for the incumbents who had dared to cross him: "Get rid of 'em all."

The conference, held this year in Orlando instead of the Washington suburbs to evade COVID-19 restrictions, served as a tribute to Trump and Trumpism, complete with a golden statue in his likeness on display. Speakers, including many potential 2024 hopefuls, argued that the party must embrace the former president and his followers, even after the deadly insurrection at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

They also repeated in panel after panel his unfounded claims that he lost reelection only because of mass voter fraud, even though such claims have been rejected by judges, Republican state officials and Trump's own administration.

Trump, too, continued to repeat what Democrats have dubbed the "big lie," calling the election "rigged" and insisting that he won in November, even though he lost by more than 7 million votes.

"As you know, they just lost the White House," he said of Biden, rewriting history.

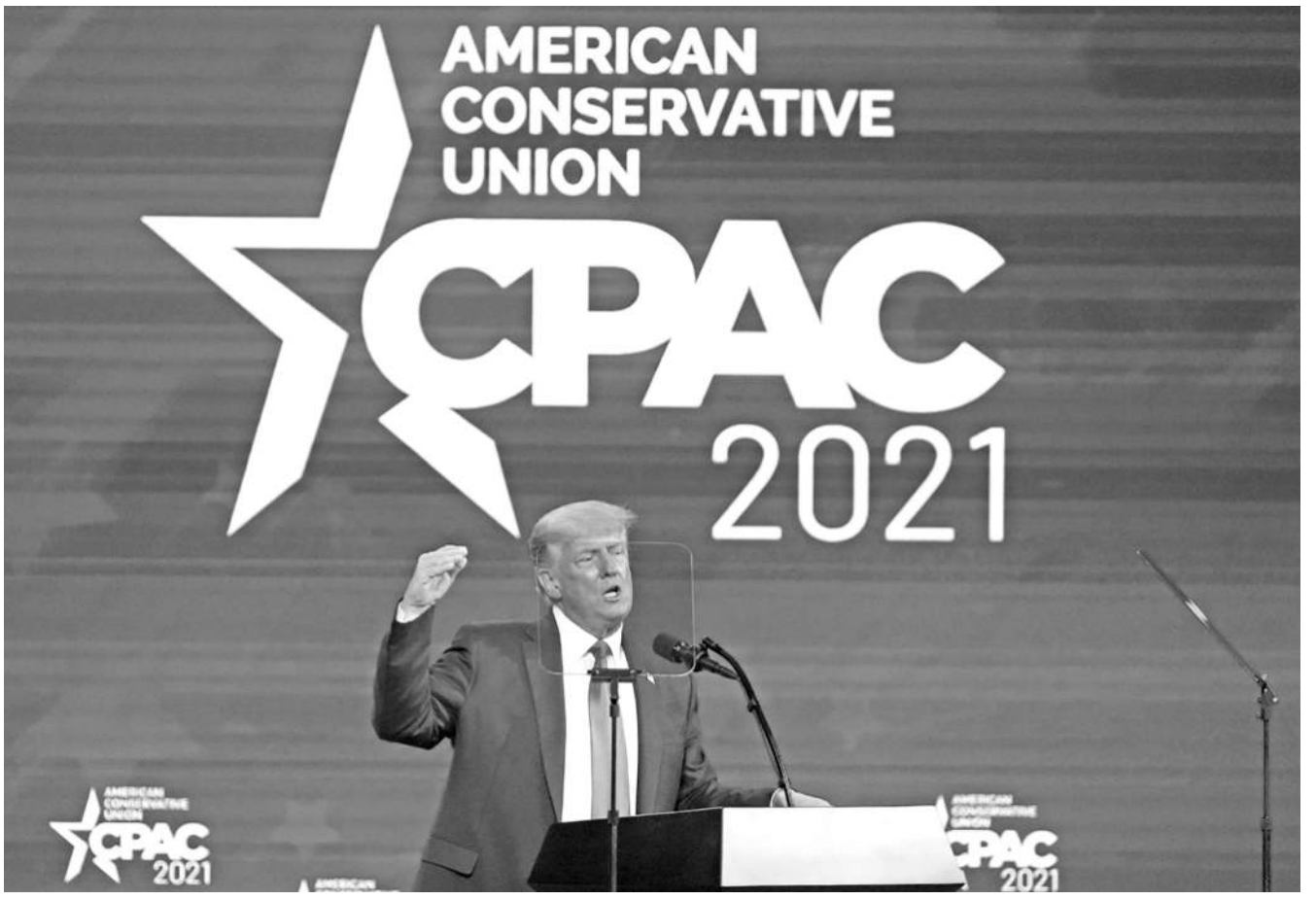
It is highly unusual for past American presidents to publicly criticize their successors in the months after leaving office. Ex-presidents typically step out of the spotlight for at least a while; Barack Obama was famously seen kitesurfing on vacation after he departed, while George W. Bush said he believed Obama "deserves my silence" and took up painting.

Not Trump.

He delivered a sharp rebuke of what he framed as the new administration's first month of failures, especially Biden's approach to immigration and the border.

"Joe Biden has had the most disastrous first month of any president in modern history," Trump said.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki had brushed off the expected criticism last week. "We'll see what he says, but our focus is certainly not on what President Trump is saying at CPAC," she told reporters.



AP

Former president Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, in Orlando, Fla.

Biden administration promises focus on environmental justice

When President Joe Biden made environmental protection a key element of his campaign, he promised to overhaul the federal office that investigates complaints from people in minority communities who believe they have been unfairly harmed by industrial pollution or waste disposal.

Although the Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges that disadvantaged communities in America are disproportionately affected by pollution, hundreds of complaints sent to its civil rights office since the mid-1990s have only once resulted in a formal finding of discrimination.

The situation has provoked criticism from the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the EPA's own Office of Inspector General and citizens who have filed complaints that sometimes languished for years—or decades.

Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, states, cities and other entities that receive federal funds are prohibited from discriminating because of race, color or national origin. That means citizens bearing the brunt of industrial pollution can bring a complaint if federal money is tied to the project.

In Uniontown, Alabama—a mainly Black town of 2,200—residents complained to the EPA in 2013 about the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's oversight of a huge landfill containing 4 million tons of coal ash that residents blame for respiratory, kidney and other ailments. Five years later, the EPA dismissed the complaint, saying residents hadn't proven the landfill caused their health problems.

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission called the dismissal of the Uniontown complaint "another distressing step in the wrong direction" by the EPA office.

The outcome was typical. In three decades of fielding complaints, EPA's civil rights office has almost never found pollution was adversely affecting human health. And without such a finding, the agency won't even consider whether illegal discrimination occurred.

Marianne Engleman-Lado, who was recently appointed by the Biden administration to the EPA's office of general counsel, had helped Uniontown residents with their case. She maintains the way the EPA evaluates such complaints makes it nearly impossible to prevail because proving with scientific certainty that pollution is causing disease is a nearly insurmountable obstacle.

Ben Eaton, a Perry County Commissioner involved in the Uniontown complaint, said attorneys warned that discrimination claims usually go nowhere, but residents felt their evidence—including photos and videos—was compelling. "What's the use of having these agencies," he said, "if they're not going to do the job?"

Residents of a predominantly Black and Latino community in Oakland, California were similarly disappointed with results of their civil rights complaint over air pollution from ships and truck traffic at the busy Port of Oakland.

Margaret Gordon, a cofounder of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, said her group did not have a seat at the table when EPA hammered out an informal resolution with the port. Air pollution is still a problem, she said, although port officials are now more willing to listen to community members.

Lilian Sotolongo Dorka, who heads the EPAs office of external civil rights enforcement, touted the 2019 Oakland resolution as an "extremely effective" example of the difference her office is making in people's lives. ***(AP)***

NY Gov. Cuomo acknowledges behavior seen as 'flirtation'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo acknowledged for the first time Sunday that some of his behavior with women "may have been insensitive or too personal," and said he would cooperate with a sexual harassment investigation led by the state's attorney general.

In a statement released amid mounting criticism from within his own party, the Democrat maintained he had never inappropriately touched or propositioned anyone. But he said he had teased people about their personal lives in an attempt to be "playful."

"I now understand that my interactions may have been insensitive or too personal and that some of my comments, given my position, made others feel in ways I never intended. I acknowledge some of the things I have said have been misinterpreted as an unwanted flirtation. To the extent anyone felt that way, I am truly sorry about that," he said.

Cuomo, one of America's most prominent governors, is facing the most serious challenge of his decade in office following claims he sexually harassed at least two women who worked for him. Democrats in New York and around the nation aren't rallying to his side, leaving him increasingly isolated from traditional allies.

His partial admission of wrongdoing came after a day of wrangling over who should investigate his workplace behavior.

By day's end, Cuomo acquiesced to demands that Attorney General Letitia James control the inquiry.

James said she expected to receive a formal referral that would give her office subpoena power and allow her to deputize an outside law firm for "a rigorous and independent investigation."

"This is not a responsibility we take lightly," said James, a Democrat who has been, at times, allied with Cuomo but is independently elected and had emerged as a consensus choice to lead a probe.

Calls for an investigation mounted after a second former employee of Cuomo's administration went public Saturday with harassment claims.

Charlotte Bennett, a low-level aide in the governor's administration until November, told The New York Times Cuomo asked questions about her sex life, including whether she ever had sex with older men, and made other comments she interpreted as gauging her interest in an affair.

Asia

In this photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte holds a vial containing the Sinovac vaccine from China as it arrives at the Villamor Air Base in Manila, Philippines on Sunday Feb. 28, 2021. AP

AMID SUPPLY PROBLEMS

PH launches virus vaccinations

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines launched a vaccination campaign Monday to contain one of Southeast Asia's worst coronavirus outbreaks but faces supply problems and public resistance, which it hopes to ease by inoculating top officials.

Cabinet officials, along with health workers and military and police personnel, were among the first to be vaccinated in six hospitals in Metropolitan Manila, after President Rodrigo Duterte and other top officials received 600,000 doses on Sunday of COVID-19 vaccine donated by China.

At the state-run Philippine General Hospital in Manila, the hospital director, Dr. Gerardo Legaspi, was inoculated first by a nurse in a televised event and was followed by Cabinet and Department of Health officials.

"Let's get vaccinated, let's save lives every day. We need to move on," Manila Mayor Isko Moreno said in a speech at the hospital, adding he would get vaccinated in about a week after health workers have been immunized.

The Philippines was among the last Southeast Asian countries to receive its first batch of vaccine due to delivery delays although it has reported more than 576,000 infections, including 12,318 deaths, the second-highest totals in Southeast Asia after Indonesia. Lockdowns and quarantine restrictions have set back Manila's economy in one of the worst recessions in the region and sparked unemployment and hunger.

"Our economy is really down, as in down so the earlier these vaccinations gain speed, the better," Duterte told a televised news conference late Sunday after witnessing the delivery of the Chinese-donated vaccine at an air base in the capital.

Duterte said he was considering to further ease quarantine restrictions in the capital and elsewhere once the vaccination campaign gains momentum. With just 600,000 doses available for about 300,000 people to get two doses each, Monday's immunizations were billed as symbolic.

Aside from China's donated vaccine from Sinovac Biotech Ltd., the government has separately ordered 25 million doses from the China-based company but no fixed date has been set for the deliveries. Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the delivery of an initial 525,600 doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine that was initially scheduled for Monday would be delayed by a week due to supply problems.

China's donation is a tiny fraction of at least 148 million doses the government has been negotiating to secure from Western and Asian companies to vaccinate about 70 million Filipinos for free in a massive campaign funded by foreign and domestic loans. The bulk of the shipments are expected to arrive later this year amid the global scramble for COVID-19 vaccine.

UN: At least 18 killed by Myanmar forces in several cities

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Security forces in Myanmar opened fire and made mass arrests Sunday as they sought to break up protests against the military's seizure of power, and a U.N. human rights official said it had "credible information" that at least 18 people were killed and 30 were wounded.

That would be the highest single-day death toll among protesters who are demanding that the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi be restored to power after being ousted by a Feb. 1 coup. About 1,000 people are believed to have been detained Sunday.

"Deaths reportedly occurred as a result of live ammunition fired into crowds in Yangon, Dawei, Mandalay, Myeik, Bago and Pokokku," the U.N. Human Rights Office said in a statement referring to several cities, adding that the forces also used tear gas, flash-bang grenades and stun grenades.

An Associated Press journalist was taken into police custody on Saturday morning while providing news coverage of the protests. The journalist, Thein Zaw, remains in police custody.

The AP called for his immediate release.

"Independent journalists must be allowed to freely and safely report the news without fear of retribution. AP decries in the strongest terms the arbitrary detention of Thein Zaw," said Ian Phillips, AP vice president for international news. The Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar also condemned the arrest.

The Democratic Voice of Burma reported that as of 5 p.m. in Myanmar, there had been 19 confirmed deaths in nine cities, with another 10 deaths unconfirmed. The independent media company broadcasts on satellite and digital terrestrial television, as well as online.

DVB counted five deaths in Yangon and two in Mandalay, the largest and second-largest cities.

World

UN warns of Yemen famine

CAIRO (AP)—A U.N. humanitarian agency on Sunday warned that more than 16 million people in Yemen would go hungry this year, with already some half a million people in the war-torn country living in famine-like conditions.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, said the risk of large-scale famine in the Arab world's poorest country "has never been more acute," adding that the years-long conflict, economic decline, and institutional collapse created enormous humanitarian needs in all sectors.

The stark warning comes a day before a pledging conference co-hosted by Sweden and Switzerland. The U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will appeal for $3.85 billion in relief aid for Yemen this year.

The response to the U.N. appeal is unlikely to meet expectations, given that the coronavirus pandemic and its devastating consequences hit economies around the globe. Wealthy Gulf donors such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which contributed generously to U.N. appeals in 2018 and 2019, cut back drastically on aid to Yemen last year amid the pandemic and corruption in Yemen aid efforts.

Yemen's war started in 2014 when the Houthi rebels seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north. The Saudi-led, U.S.-backed coalition intervened months later to dislodge the rebels and restore the internationally recognized government. The conflict has killed some 130,000 people and spawned the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

The majority of Yemen's population lives in Houthi-held areas. The rebels have been implicated in stealing aid and using aid access to extort concessions and money. The U.S., one of the largest donors to Yemen, already suspended millions of dollars in aid to Houthi-controlled areas after reports of theft and looting of relief supplies. U.N. agencies have long complained of rebels stealing and rerouting food aid.

Monday's pledging conference comes as the Iranian-backed Houthis renewed their offensive on the central province of Marib, stoking fears of a new humanitarian crisis in a region that hosts the largest displaced population in the country, according to local authorities.

The province, the location of the ancient Great Marib Dam, has served as a sort of haven for around 1 million Yemenis who have fled Houthi offensives since the start of the war, according to U.N. figures.

The rebels have renewed their attacks on the oil-rich province, a holdout against them, but have faced stiff resistance and heavy airstrikes from the Saudi-led coalition. Hundreds, mostly Houthis, have died in the fighting.

OCHA said the fighting in Marib has displaced more than 8,000 civilian people, particularly from the district of Sirwah, which hosts around 30,000 displaced people in at least 14 camps. Sirwah has seen the heaviest fighting, it said.

The agency warned about possible displacement of another 380,000 people if fighting reached the actual city of Marib, capital of the province, where camps for displaced people are already crowded.

In the port city of Hodeida, meanwhile, an overnight explosion hit a residential building in al-Hawal district, killing at least five civilians, including a women and a child, and wounding three others, the U.N. mission in the strategic city said Sunday.

The mission, known as UNMHA, did not say what caused the explosion or which party was behind it.

The head of the U.N. mission to Hodeida, retired Gen. Abhijit Guha, urged both sides to adhere to the 2018 U.N.-brokered agreement that ended the fighting in Hodeida, and allow U.N. monitors to access sites of recent and significant military hostilities.

Israeli-owned ship docked in Dubai after mysterious blast

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An Israeli-owned cargo ship that suffered a mysterious explosion in the Gulf of Oman came to Dubai's port for repairs Sunday, days after the blast that revived security concerns in Mideast waterways amid heightened tensions with Iran.

Associated Press journalists saw the hulking Israeli-owned MV Helios Ray sitting at dry dock facilities at Dubai's Port Rashid. Although the crew was unharmed in the blast, the vessel sustained two holes on its port side and two on its starboard side just above the waterline, according to American defense officials.

It remains unclear what caused the blast, but the incident comes amid sharply rising tension between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling 2015 nuclear deal. Iran has sought to pressure President Joe Biden's administration to grant the sanctions relief it received under the accord with world powers that former President Donald Trump abandoned.

From the shore, AP journalists could not immediately see damage to the vessel. The dock blocked the view of the vessel's starboard side down to the waterline and the port side could only be seen from a distance. The blue and white ship was anchored near Dubai's storied floating hotel, the Queen Elizabeth 2. An Emirati coast guard vessel was seen sailing behind the ship, with Dubai police and Emirati armed forces vehicles parked nearby.

Emirati officials did not respond to requests for comment on the vessel docking in the country.

Friday's blast on the ship, a Bahamian-flagged roll-on, roll-off vehicle cargo vessel, recalled a string of attacks on foreign oil tankers in 2019 that the U.S. Navy blamed on Iran. Tehran denied any role in the suspected assaults, which happened near the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil chokepoint.

Several Israeli officials hinted that they believed Iran was responsible for the explosion on the ship. In a speech at an army base on Sunday, Israeli military Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi accused Iran of carrying out "operations against civilian targets," a charge the army later confirmed was in reference to the suspected ship attack.

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz echoed concerns about Iran's threats against Israel, adding in a speech that the army was "working to build up our forces and is preparing itself for any scenario, including one in which we would need to take operative action to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons." In an interview with Israeli Kan TV the day before, he said the circumstances of the explosion pointed toward Iranian involvement but stressed it needed to be investigated further.

Meanwhile on Sunday, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for firing a ballistic missile and nine bomb-laden drones at "sensitive sites" in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh the night before. The group's military spokesman Yahia Sarei added that another six explosive drones targeted "military positions" in the southwestern cities of Abha and Khamis Mushait. The Saudi interception of the missile set off an apparent explosion over Riyadh that startled residents and scattered shell debris, without causing casualties.

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

There are certain things in life you'll always remember: your first love, a fun vacation, a night out at a particular restaurant (sometime prior to March). But if asked to recall a trip to the supermarket last month in any detail, odds are you would draw a blank. Why should you remember such an unremarkable moment in your life?

Cars can be like that too: so boring, humdrum and unmemorable that driving them is as thrilling as buying a new box of dryer softener sheets. That has long been true of the Kia Sorento, a vehicle that I have test driven since its inception. But for the life of me, I can't recall any of them. The all-new, fully redesigned 2021 Kia Sorento will change that.

It's an exceptional entry in the compact crossover world, and one that ably competes with the best in its class, particularly its Japanese competition. It's also the first one I can remember after having returned the test vehicle.

Admittedly, that was not because of the styling. While the Sorento lacks the clean impactful styling of the pricier Telluride, it does share a few of its design details, and adds some unique styling cues of its own, such as the large, chunky tail lamps and the wave-like insert on the side rear window, a shape the mimics the line above it in the window. It's modern and handsome, but not the stunning, class-above-styling statement of the Telluride.

So far, I thought I knew what I was in for: a forgettable experience like that of every Sorento I've sampled. But I was mistaken.

The Sorento is at the small end of the midsize crossover utility vehicle segment. It's sold in base LX and step-up S trims powered by normally-aspirated 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and an 8-speed automatic transmission rated at 191 horsepower and 181 pound-feet of torque. Tonier EX, SX, SX Prestige and SX Prestige X-line models are blessed with a more powerful turbocharged 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and an eight-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission that generates 281 horsepower and 311 pound-feet of torque, more torque than is offered in the Telluride. If you prefer better fuel economy, keep in mind that Kia plans to produce the Sorento as a hybrid and plug-in hybrid as well. Both front-wheel and all-wheel drive models are available.

Kia provided an SX Prestige X-Line with all-wheel drive for a week-long evaluation.

You could be forgiven for thinking the Sorento is little more than a junior Telluride. But its driveline imbues it with a different character. The turbocharged four propels the Sorento with muscular authority, so if you want the turbo motor, you might want to opt for all-wheel drive, as front-wheel-drive models are bound to have torque steer. Once the turbo is spooled up, you'll find the driveline to be responsive and authoritative. The dual clutch transmission shifts very quickly and comfortably. If it's not quick enough, you can use the shift paddles mounted on the steering wheel. But the biggest surprise came from the Sorento's ride and handling, which is far better than any previous model. Yes, it's a very firm ride, but it never feels harsh or uncomfortable, a feeling reinforced by the shockingly quiet cabin.

Like the exterior, the interior design has a very loud visual vocabulary, as evidenced by the test vehicle's diamond-quilted leather seats. The matte-finish wood trim felt chic and upscale, however, and fit and finish were very good. The cabin is spacious and features three rows, although the third row is best for the smallest of children or people you detest. Otherwise, leave it folded and expand the 12.6 cubic-foot cargo hold to 38.5 cubic feet. Folding the second row nearly doubles that. Speaking of second rows, there are captain's chairs in the EX trim and above.

The tech package proves impressive. Most models get an 8-inch touchscreen with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, while SX, SX Prestige 2.5T and SX Prestige X-Line come with a 10.25-inch touchscreen infotainment screen with navigation, AM/FM Audio system with Satellite Radio, UVO telematics, but wired Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, not wireless. But Sorentos come with eight USB ports, so everyone can stay connected. A wireless smartphone charging pad and a 12.3-in. digital instrument cluster are optional.

Standard driver-assistance gear impresses as well, with forward collision warning, forward collision-avoidance assist, pedestrian detection, driver attention warning, lane departure alert, lane centering lane keep assist, lane departure warning, and high beam assist. Optional systems include cyclist detection, blind spot avoidance assist, rear cross-traffic assist, parking distance warning, parking collision avoidance assist, navigation-based smart cruise control curve control, highway driving assist, and safe exist assist.

It makes for a compelling value, one that's more appealing due to the Sorento's agility and sizeable interior. It's a crossover that reminds you that choosing it was the right decision by comfortably and competently handling your every whim, day after day.

And that makes it memorable.

NUTS & BOLTS

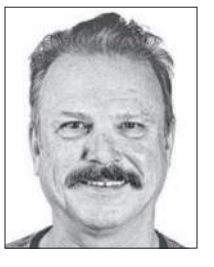
2021 Kia Sorento SX Prestige X-Line

- Base price: $42,500
- Engine: 2.5-liter DOHC turbocharged four-cylinder
- Horsepower/Torque: 281/311
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 21/28 mpg
- Observed fuel economy: 22 mpg
- Fuel required: Regular
- Length/Width/Height: 189/74.8/70.3 inches
- Ground clearance: 6.9 inches
- Cargo capacity: 12.6-75.5 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 1,654-3,500 pounds

2021 Sorento SX (Robin Trajano/Kia)

AUTO REVIEW: The 2021 Kia Sorento is one you'll remember

Motormouth: Trouble? The car will let you know



By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: In a recent column, you mentioned that a vapor storage charcoal canister can flood by overfilling your gas tank. If you squeeze in extra fuel over a long period of time, how would you know if the canister is actually flooded and not operating correctly?

—R.M., Elk Grove Village, Ill.

A: The check engine light will come on. The evaporative emissions control system routinely performs self-tests. If it fails for any reason, including the vapor canister, it gets reported.

Q: Chicago, like most of the northern U.S., has experienced bitter cold and snowy weather. I have a small space heater that keeps my garage temps in the 55-60 F range. I have a compressor, so I fill my tires in my garage, to the "cold" recommendations (44 psi front, 55 psi rear). After being parked outdoors for a few hours, I noticed that my tires were down 2 psi all around. Recent temps have been in the single digits. Do I inflate the tires to the outside "cold" level or the garage "cold" level?

—D.R., La Grange, Ill.

A: Cold pressure refers to ambient temperature before the tires are driven on long enough to warm up. You can't go wrong inflating them to the outside temperature.

Q: I have a 2012 Tacoma and installed KC off-road lights on a bull bar that are operated by an independent switch. When I took it in for state inspection at the dealership, I was told that the vehicle wouldn't pass inspection because of these lights. I was told according to state law that these lights had to be wired in with the high beams. These lights are super bright. I had the dealership remove the lights after haggling 10 minutes with them over the cost. This dealership inspected this vehicle seven times prior to this and it was never an issue.

—J.B., East Greenville, Pa.

A: In a former life, when I lived in Pittsburgh, I did state inspections and told the owners to cover the lights. Off-road lights usually come with them. According to the Pennsylvania state inspection manual, off-road "… lights may be installed if they are not used on a highway or trafficway and are covered with an opaque covering at all times while operating on the highway or trafficway. Vehicles equipped with roof or roll bar mounted off-road lights shall have a switch that indicates to the driver, through the use of a pilot light, that the lights are on when so switched." Also, the off-road lights must also be tapped into the high beam circuit. This rule generally applies to many other states.

Q: I have a 2012 Nissan Versa. Something seems wrong with my heater/defrost system. All the windows, especially the front side ones, fog up quickly when I have the regular heat setting and fan on. I have to quickly switch to defog and high fan to clear them; sometimes I have to press A/C button as well. Not the best setup in winter temps! Had garage check it. They removed lower dash panel and found knob and cable/gear are OK. They suggest no action unless it becomes a more significant problem. It is so annoying! What do you think is up?

—S.K., Nazareth, Pa.

A: Try setting your controls to allow outside, rather than recirculated, air. I may sound counterintuitive during cold weather, but you won't notice the difference in cabin temperature. Moisture from our breath, melting snow from our shoes and so on raises the interior humidity level causing fogging.

Life & Style

'Nomadland,''Borat' win at a socially distant **Golden Globes**

NBC VIA AP

In this video grab issued Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, by NBC, hosts Tina Fey, left, from New York, and Amy Poehler, from Beverly Hills, Calif., speak at the Golden Globe Awards.

NEW YORK (AP)—With homebound nominees appearing by remote video and hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler on different sides of the country, a very socially distanced 78th Golden Globe Awards trudged on in the midst of the pandemic and amid a storm of criticism for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, with top awards going to "Nomadland," "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm," "The Crown" and "Schitt's Creek."

The night's top award, best picture drama, went to Chloé Zhao's elegiac road movie "Nomadland," a Western set across economic upheaval and personal grief. Zhao, the China-born filmmaker of, became the first woman of Asian descent to win best director. She's only the second woman in the history of the Globes to win, and the first since Barbra Streisand won for "Yentl" in 1984.

"'Nomadland at its core for me is a pilgrimage through grief and healing," said Zhao, accepting the awards remotely. "For everyone who has gone through this difficult and beautiful journey at some point in their lives, this is for you."

With a canceled red carpet and stars giving speeches from the couch, Sunday's Globes had little of their typically frothy flavor. But they went on, nevertheless, with winners in sweats and dogs in laps, in a pandemic that has sapped nearly all the glamour out of Hollywood.

Facing scant traditional studio competition, streaming services dominated the Globes like never before—even if the top award went to a familiar if renamed source: Searchlight Pictures, formerly the Fox specialty label of "12 Years a Slave" and "The Shape of Water" now owned by the Walt Disney Co.

Amazon's "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm"—one of the few nominated films shot partly during the pandemic—won best film, comedy or musical. Its star, guerilla comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, also won best actor in a comedy. Referring to Rudy Giuliani's infamous cameo, Baron Cohen thanked "a fresh new talent who came from nowhere and turned out to be a comedy genius."

"I mean, who could get more laughs from one unzipping," he said.

Netflix, which came in with a commanding 42 nominations, won the top TV awards. "The Crown," as expected, took best drama series, along with acting wins for Josh O'Connor (Prince Charles), Emma Corrin (Princess Diana) and Gillian Anderson (Margaret Thatcher). "The Queen's Gambit" won best limited series, and best actress in the category for Anya Taylor-Joy. "Schitt's Creek," the Pop TV series that found a wider audience on Netflix, won best comedy series for its final season. Catherine O'Hara also took best actress in a comedy series.

Chadwick Boseman, as expected, posthumously won best actor in a drama film for his final performance, in the August Wilson adaptation "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"—a Netflix release. Boseman's wife, Taylor Simone Ledward, tearfully, emotionally accepted the award.

"He would thank God. He would thank his parents. He would thank his ancestors for their guidance and their sacrifices," said Ledward. "He would say something beautiful, something inspiring."

Apple TV+ scored its first major award when a sweatshirt-clad Jason Sudeikis won best actor in a comedy series for the streamer's "Ted Lasso."

The NBC telecast began in split screen. Fey took the stage at New York's Rainbow Room while Poehler remained at the Globes' usual home at the Beverly Hilton. In their opening remarks, they managed their typically well-timed back-and-forth despite being almost 3,000 miles from each other.

"I always knew my career would end with me wandering around the Rainbow Room pretending to talk to Amy," said Fey. "I just thought it would be later."

Prince Harry: Split from royal life 'unbelievably tough'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prince Harry says the process of separating from royal life has been very difficult for him and his wife, Meghan.

In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Harry invoked the memory of his late mother, Princess Diana, who had to find her way alone after she and Prince Charles divorced.

"I'm just really relieved and happy to be sitting here talking to you with my wife by my side, because I can't begin to imagine what it must have been like for her going through this process by herself all those years ago," Harry said, adding, "because it's been unbelievably tough for the two of us."

"But at least we have each other," Harry said, in a clip from the interview special, which is scheduled to air March 7 on CBS and the following day in Britain. Diana was shown in a photo holding toddler Harry as he made the comments. His mother died in 1997 of injuries suffered in a car crash.

Harry and Meghan sat opposite Winfrey and side-by-side, holding hands during the interview that was conducted in a lush garden setting. The couple lives in Montecito, California, where they are neighbors of Winfrey. Meghan, who recently announced she is pregnant with the couple's second child, wore an empire-style black dress with embroidery. Harry wore a light gray suit and white dress shirt, minus a tie.

As Meghan Markle, the actor starred in the TV legal drama "Suits." She married Queen Elizabeth II's grandson at Windsor Castle in May 2018, and their son, Archie, was born a year later.

The brief promotional clip was one of two of that aired Sunday during CBS' news magazine "60 Minutes." Winfrey's questions and comment were predominant in the other clip, including her statement that, "You said some pretty shocking things here," without an indication of what she was referring to. Meghan was not heard from in the clips.

Harry and Meghan stepped away from full-time royal life in March 2020, unhappy at media scrutiny and the strictures of their roles. They cited what they described as the intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media toward the duchess, who is African American.

It was agreed the situation would be reviewed after a year. On Friday, Buckingham Palace confirmed that the couple will not be returning to royal duties and Harry will give up his honorary military

'Helpful' husband is caught twice with younger women

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 26 years. Five years ago, my husband gave a young lady $5,000 through credit card charges over a six-month period. We are not wealthy. When I found the charges in our credit report, he took a second job to pay it off.

I don't think their relationship was sexual because he is impotent. It was hurtful. While he was taking this young lady shopping, he told me he was at work.

Recently, I (accidentally) caught him going to another young lady's apartment to help her with things like hanging a TV. I don't care if he helps people. What I DO care about is his sneaking around to do it. I have tried talking to him about why he feels he needs to sneak. He has no answer. What makes men sneak?

DECEIVED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR DECEIVED: Your husband may fear your disapproval of his relationships—however platonic they may be—with these younger women. What makes people of both genders sneak, by the way, is usually a sense of guilt.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, my 33-year-old son, his girlfriend and their 4-year-old son all live with me. They are expecting their second child. I own the home and pay all the bills (utilities, phone, food, etc.).

The problem is, my kids don't like my boyfriend. His grandkids call me Grandma, so I would like my grandkids to call him Grandpa. My son and his girlfriend won't allow their son to do it. They insist on calling him by his first name.

I asked for a compromise and to call him Uncle. They refuse and say he didn't "earn" that name. I said it's just teaching the children to respect their elders. When I grew up and when I raised my son, we called older people Aunty and Uncle. I'm not sure what to do because we all live in the same house, and I would like all of us to get along.

WISHING FOR RESPECT IN HAWAII

DEAR WISHING: You may have taught your son to respect his elders when he was growing up, but it appears he has had a serious memory lapse. Shame on him.

Because you foot all of the bills for the roof over his and his family's heads as well as the food in their mouths, remind him that you are the head of that household, and you will not have anyone with whom you are involved disrespected. As it stands, you and your boyfriend are being disrespected, so as head of the household, please assert yourself.

DEAR ABBY: Our son, "Justin," is getting married. He told his dad the other day that his fiancee would like for my husband to go with Justin to his salon to get his hair cut and beard trimmed for the wedding. My husband is upset about it because he feels his soon-to-be daughter-in-law is implying that his haircut isn't good enough. As the wife and future mother-in-law, I'm unsure how to handle this situation. Help, please.

GROOMING GROOM'S DAD IN GEORGIA

DEAR G.G.D.I.G.: Try to get your offended spouse to laugh about it. Point out that EVERYONE looks better with a fresh haircut and a trim. Even you and me. Most people want to spruce up and make themselves more presentable for a special event. Why should your husband be any different?

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

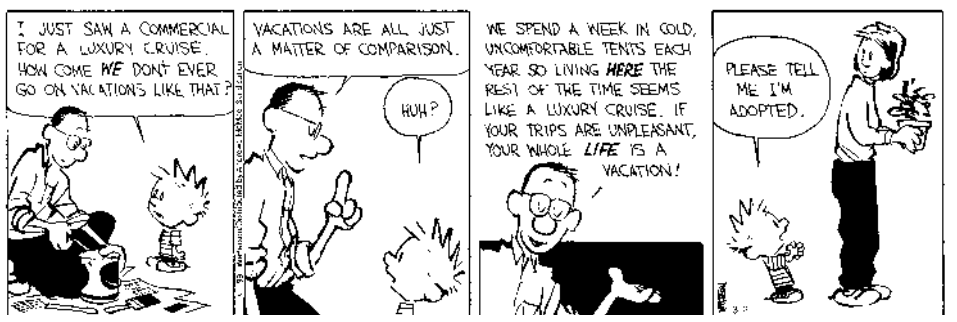
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I JUST SAW A COMMERCIAL FOR A LUXURY CRUISE. HOW COME WE DON'T EVER GO ON VACATIONS LIKE THAT?
VACATIONS ARE ALL JUST A MATTER OF COMPARISON.
HUH?
WE SPEND A WEEK IN COLD, UNCOMFORTABLE TENTS EACH YEAR. SO LIVING HERE THE REST OF THE TIME SEEMS LIKE A LUXURY CRUISE. IF YOUR TRIPS ARE UNPLEASANT, YOUR WHOLE LIFE IS A VACATION!
PLEASE TELL ME I'M ADOPTED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

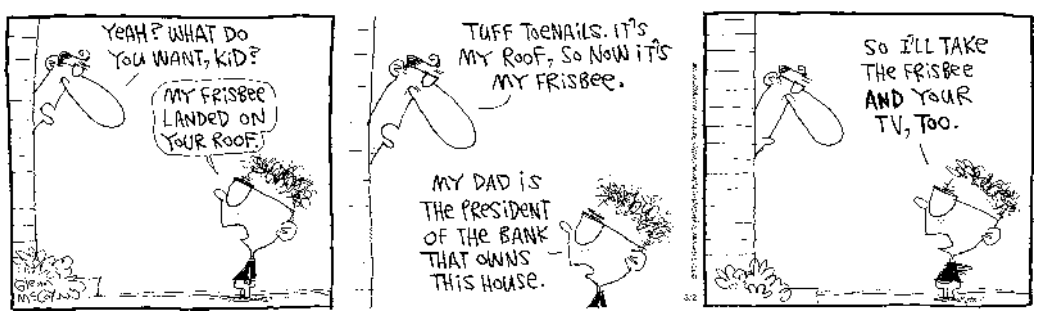
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M MAD!
WE GOT ALL THAT SNOW! IT SHOULD BE A SNOW DAY!
BUT NOOOOOO! NOT WITH VIRTUAL LEARNING AVAILABLE.
I SHOULD BE CHILLED TO THE BONE WITH FROZEN SNOT IN MY NOSE ON A FLIPPIN' SLEDDING HILL!!
3-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YEAH? WHAT DO YOU WANT, KID?
MY FRISBEE LANDED ON YOUR ROOF.
TUFF TOENAILS. IT'S MY ROOF, SO NOW IT'S MY FRISBEE.
MY DAD IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK THAT OWNS THIS HOUSE.
SO I'LL TAKE THE FRISBEE AND YOUR TV, TOO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

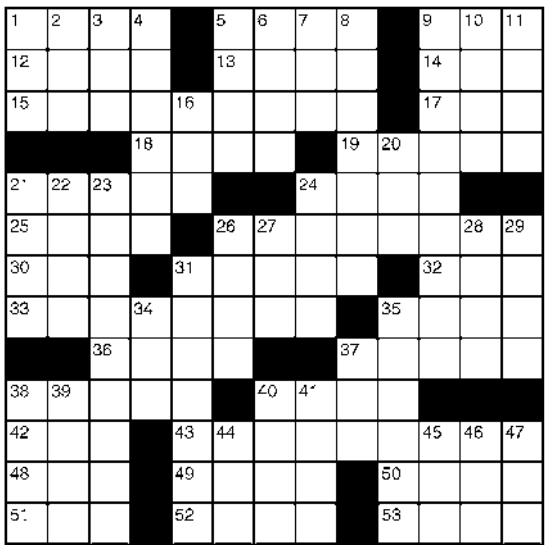
ACROSS
1 Latvia's capital
5 Hoax
9 "Terrif!"
12 Dazzles
13 Circle dance
14 "Hail, Caesar!"
15 Texas city
17 Dead heat
18 Japanese noodle
19 Fighting
21 Clumps of grass
24 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
25 Competent
26 In an interpersonal manner
30 Writer Harper
31 — firma
32 Baton Rouge sch.
33 Believability
35 Bell sound
36 Frog's kin
37 Sporty Chevy, for short
38 Reduce
40 Oodles
42 Mother of Cain
43 Sommelier's recommendations
48 Born
49 — Bator
50 Grow weary
51 Deluge refuge
52 Toy block name
53 Supermodel Benitez

DOWN
1 U.K. fliers
2 — Jima
3 Berlin's country (Abbr.)
4 Shrewd
5 "Scram!"
6 Honker
7 Illustrations
8 Gospel singer Jackson
9 Overstuffed money holder
10 Athletic shoe brand
11 "Cheers" order
16 OED entries
20 TV schedule abbr.
21 Body powder
22 Taxi alternative
23 Naval event in major ports
24 Ranch measure
26 Email command
27 Tolkien creature
28 Aspiring atty.'s exam
29 Year-end celebration
31 Visibly sad
34 Fawn's mom
35 Women's clothing size
37 Pledge
38 Sultry Horne
39 Done with
40 Letter jumble (Abbr.)
41 Carson's successor
44 — -de-France
45 Goose egg
46 Hosp. areas
47 Salty expanse

Solution time: 22 mins.

	B		S	■	I	D	S	■	G	L	A	M
F	A	N	I	A	S	.	A	■	L	I	F	O
S	A	I	I	R	I	S	I	■	L	I	E	S
■	■	■	L	I	S	■	L	I	I	E	S	■
S	K	A	I	E	■	I	R	U	E	■	■	■
P	I	G	S	■	H	O	A	G	I	E	S	■
V	E	E	■	S	C	R	T	S	■	L	E	O
■	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	■	A	L	L	V
■	■	■	O	I	S	E	■	S	M	E	L	L
P	I	E	R	R	E	■	R	I	P	■	■	■
A	C	L	U	■	S	M	I	.	E	S	A	T
R	E	M	S	■	A	B	S	O	R	B	E	D
■	E	S	H	■	T	A	E	■	E	A	R	S

Yesterday's answer 3-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bryce Dallas Howard, 40; Method Man, 50; Daniel Craig, 53; Jon Bon Jovi, 59.

Happy Birthday: Emotional spending will not help you get ahead this year. Personal improvements through exercise, proper diet and a healthy lifestyle will help you maintain the healthy attitude and physical strength to reach your goal. Strive for perfection and kindness, and implement solutions to pending problems. Romance is encouraged and will enhance your life. Your numbers are 8, 12, 23, 29, 33, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Align yourself with like-minded individuals who can help you achieve your goals. Discuss your plans with your partner to ensure you are heading in a similar direction. Eliminate interference before challenges overwhelm you. Open conversations will offer insight. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of business before someone in charge complains. Control your emotions, set your sights on what's important and don't let interfere with your plans. Your actions will be what's remembered, not your words or promises. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick to the truth; offer only what you know you can supply. Learn from the experiences you encountered in the past, and you will avoid a no-win situation. Stick to people you know you can trust implicitly. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Personal improvement will encourage the confidence to follow through with a long-term professional plan. Changing your direction or associating with people in a field that interests you will lead to better opportunities. Refuse to let sentimentality stand in your way. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You have more options than you realize. Stop letting someone make decisions for you. Start trusting in your ability to get things done. Added discipline, a desire to achieve and new opportunities are apparent. Follow your heart, and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Someone from your past will have an impact on your life. Make the changes that will bring you closer to the glee you deserve; moderation, a minimalist lifestyle and a change of heart will contribute to better health and happiness. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Discipline will make a difference to the outcome of a situation you face with a close friend or relative. Speak up, make a difference and do what's necessary to get others to take note and do what's right. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pay attention to what's going on with a friend or relative. Protect your home and family from those not following the rules or creating risk factors. Pay more attention to someone you love, and make romance and self-improvement priorities. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A disciplined approach to your responsibilities will pay off. Listen to the facts, and don't lose sight of what's real and what isn't. Break away from people who are trying to undermine or manipulate you. Make intelligent decisions, not emotional ones. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An unexpected change you encounter will require an instant response. Protect your home and family against perpetrators or those who present a risk. Take a unique approach to the way you handle your money and professional responsibilities. Romance is featured. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take your time, and look for investments, deals and opportunities that will encourage stability and financial security. Don't make changes based on what someone else does. Do what works best for you, and avoid being undermined by false claims. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take the high road, regardless of what others do or say. Follow your heart. Use the knowledge you have gathered to make a suitable decision regarding work, money and your health. A change of plans will alter the way you live. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are patient, impressive and forceful. You are encouraging and compassionate.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9				7			
			8					
8		9	1	7				6
	3	8		5	4			
	6	8			3	7		
		5	7		4	9		
9			1	2	6			3
				5				
		4				1		

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	8	3	6	7	4	1	2
3	6	4	1	9	2	5	7	8
2	7	1	8	5	4	9	6	3
5	4	2	7	1	8	3	9	6
7	8	9	2	3	6	1	5	4
6	1	3	9	4	5	8	2	7
1	9	6	4	2	3	7	8	5
8	3	5	6	7	9	2	4	1
4	2	7	5	8	1	6	3	9

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TANYA ROBERTS (1955-2021) Solution: 11 letters

A	S	A	G	E	V	B	Y	A	W	D	A	O	R	B
V	C	B	D	L	C	E	E	A	J	A	M	E	S	N
I	I	T	A	L	A	N	C	M	O	D	E	L	S	O
E	N	T	R	R	E	S	A	O	D	A	E	L	S	T
W	C	X	A	E	R	V	T	D	V	G	E	C	Y	T
T	I	N	C	G	S	Y	S	S	N	E	A	A	S	U
O	P	O	Q	D	M	S	H	A	S	R	R	R	A	S
A	S	R	U	I	N	E	S	T	T	L	E	S	T	E
K	E	B	E	M	E	E	R	S	O	G	T	R	E	I
I	L	A	T	N	I	A	I	O	O	R	A	V	J	T
L	E	R	A	L	S	V	C	R	M	O	O	Z	U	N
L	I	B	R	B	I	Ⓓ	Ⓝ	Ⓞ	Ⓑ	L	B	D	L	E
L	G	A	E	T	P	I	N	C	I	O	T	T	I	V
A	H	R	C	L	A	I	R	O	L	A	N	C	E	E
C	G	A	I	R	O	T	C	I	V	O	I	C	E	S

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/2

Activist, Actress, A View to a Kill, Barbara, Barry, Boat, Bond, Broadway, Bronx, Call, Charlie's Angels, Clairol, Cool Ray, Covers, Dance, Dorothy, James, Julie, Lance, Last, Lead, Lee Strasberg, Leigh, Love, Midge, Model, O'Brien, Oscar, Picnic, Pinciotti, Racquet, Rogers, Seventies, Sheena, Stacey, Sutton, Vegas, Velda, Victoria, Voices, Zoom

Yesterday's Answer: Steroid

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Antetokounmpo, Bucks rally late to beat Clippers

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks showed they can still rally in the fourth quarter to win games with their defense.

Antetokounmpo scored 36 points and sparked a game-closing 9-0 run as the Bucks rallied to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 105-100 on Sunday for their fifth consecutive victory.

Milwaukee led the NBA in defensive efficiency while posting the league's best regular-season record each of the last two years. The Bucks generally haven't performed quite as well on defense this season but stifled the Clippers down the stretch.

The Bucks held the Clippers scoreless over the final four minutes of the game and won for the first time in 11 games this season when trailing after three quarters.

"It's great when you go against the best in the world down the stretch," said Antetokounmpo, who also had 14 rebounds and five assists. "You're trying to get a stop, and they're trying to score on you to win the game. ... I love just taking that individual pride in guarding the best players."

Kawhi Leonard's potential tying 3-point attempt bounced off the front rim in the closing seconds. Khris Middleton got the rebound and sealed it by making two free throws with 2.1 seconds remaining.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Middleton, who had 19 points, eight assists and six rebounds. "We have to prove it by doing it over and over again, not just one game or two games. But I think tonight was a great sign that we're headed in the right direction as far as defensively."

After trailing by seven points in the fourth quarter, the Bucks regained the lead 101-100 when Antetokounmpo made two free throws with 1:57 left.

The Clippers had the ball with a chance to take the lead on three separate occasions after that but couldn't convert. Paul George missed a contested layup with 1:35 remaining. Leonard missed a 3-point attempt with 1:05 left. George missed a 3-point try with about 35 seconds left.

Middleton found Antetokounmpo for a dunk to make it 103-100 with 10.3 seconds left. Antetokounmpo high-stepped up the court in celebration as the Clippers called a timeout.

George said after the game that the Clippers should have picked up the pace on offense down the stretch. Leonard agreed.

"I thought we came down too slow," Leonard said. "As a team, I don't feel like we're there yet. We're looking to the sideline a lot for plays. I feel like our pace has pretty much slowed down. You've got to give them credit, though. They locked in."

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the LA Clippers Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, in Milwaukee.

George had 16 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Clippers. Serge Ibaka had 15 points and 11 rebounds. Lou Williams added 14 points.

Donte DiVincenzo had 11 and Brook Lopez added 10 for the Bucks.

Lakers 117, Warriors 91

In Los Angeles, LeBron James scored 19 points in his 1,300th regular-season appearance to help Los Angeles rout Golden State.

The defending NBA champions had dropped five of six since Anthony Davis suffered a right calf strain on Feb. 14, but have won their last two.

Eric Paschall scored 18 points for Golden State, which had its three-game winning streak snapped. Stephen Curry added 16 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. 14.

Suns 118, Timberwolves 99

In Minneapolis, Devin Booker scored 21 of his season-high 43 points in the third quarter to carry Phoenix past Minnesota for its 14th win in last 17 games.

Booker hit 15 of 26 shots from the floor, repeatedly blowing by his defenders for smooth pullup jumpers and traffic-beating, twisting layups for the 13th 40-point game of his six-year career.

The two-time All-Star Game pick—each as an injury replacement—went 12 for 13 from the free-throw line to help the surging Suns improve to 22-11.

DeAndre Ayton added 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Chris Paul had 11 points and 15 assists for the Suns, who outscored the Timberwolves 42-25 over the final 14 minutes.

Anthony Edwards scored 24 points for the NBA-worst Timberwolves. They have lost eight straight to fall to 7-27.

Celtics 11, Wizards 110

In Boston, Jayson Tatum made two twisting, driving baskets in the final 15 seconds and finished with 31 points, helping Boston overcome Bradley Beal's 46-point night for Washington.

Kemba Walker scored 21 points for the Celtics, and Daniel Theis had 20 points and nine rebounds. Boston, which beat Indiana on Friday, has won consecutive games for the first time since late January.

Russell Westbrook had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards. Davis Bertans added 20 points.

Grizzlies 133, Rockets 84

In Houston, Justise Winslow scored 20 points and Memphis pounded Houston for the Rockets' 11th straight loss.

In just his fourth game back after missing more than a year because of a hip injury, Winslow — playing in his hometown — had his best scoring night since October 2019.

Houston has its longest losing streak since a 15-game skid in November and December 2001. The 84 points are the Rockets' lowest total since Nov. 8, 2018, in a loss to Oklahoma City.

Houston was 4 of 45 3s on 3-pointers. John Wall and Jae'Sean Tate each had 14 points for the Rockets.

Knicks 109, Pistons 90

In Detroit, Julius Randle scored 17 of his 25 points in the second half and New York beat Detroit to move above .500.

At 18-17, the Knicks have the fourth-best record in the Eastern Conference and have won seven of their last nine games. The Knicks were last above .500 this far into the season since they were 54-28 at the end of 2012-13, according to SportRadar.

Derrick Rose scored 14 points, less than a month after he was traded from the Pistons to the Knicks.

Jerami Grant scored 21 points for the Pistons.

Heat 109, Hawks 99

In Miami, Kendrick Nunn scored 24 points and Miami extended the NBA's longest current winning streak to six games, beating Atlanta to get back to .500.

Bam Adebayo had 16 points and 13 rebounds to help Miami improve to 17-17. The Heat were without Jimmy Butler because of inflammation in his right knee.

John Collins had 34 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta.

Hornets 127, Kings 126

In Sacramento, Calif., PJ Washington scored a career-high 42 points, Malik Monk converted a three-point play with 1.4 seconds remaining and the Charlotte Hornets stunned the Sacramento Kings 127-126 with a late rally Sunday night.

Monk finished with 21 points to help Charlotte come back despite playing without leading scorer Gordon Hayward, who sat out with a hand injury.

LaMelo Ball added 24 points and a career-best 12 assists for the Hornets, who trailed the entire fourth quarter before Monk's game-winning play.

The Kings missed five free throws over the final 69 seconds and lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Sacramento led 123-115 following a dunk by Harrison Barnes, but coach Luke Walton's team couldn't close it out.

Terry Rozier made a 3-pointer and then added three free throws after being fouled by Barnes with 33.7 seconds left.

After Washington's fifth 3 cut the lead to 125-124 with 17 seconds remaining, Buddy Hield hit one of two free throws for the Kings.

Monk followed by driving down the lane and flipping the ball off the backboard with his right hand. He was fouled by Richaun Holmes.

Hield missed a desperation heave from beyond midcourt as time ran out.

Hield scored 30 points and Barnes had 28. De'Aaron Fox added 20 points and 14 assists for Sacramento.

Raptors' virus issues worsen, game vs. Bulls called off

The Toronto Raptors' issues with the coronavirus have worsened, prompting the NBA to call off their game scheduled for Sunday night against the Chicago Bulls.

The league said the Raptors are dealing with positive test results, without disclosing how many, and that combined with ongoing contact-tracing issues meant they would not have the league-required eight players available to play.

Toronto played Friday without head coach Nick Nurse, several other assistants and staffers and starting forward Pascal Siakam because of virus-related issues. Assistant coach Sergio Scariolo coached the team to a win over Houston and had been in line to coach again Sunday.

The Raptors-Bulls game is the 30th to be postponed so far this season because of COVID-19 testing or contact tracing.

It was the first postponement this season for the Raptors, who are playing their home games in Tampa, Florida, because of oronavirus restrictions in Canada. Chicago has now had four of its games pushed back, all because its opponent for each of those contests was going through a virus-related problem.

The only teams that have not had a game postponed by virus issues so far this season are Brooklyn, the Los Angeles Clippers and the Los Angeles Lakers.

All NBA players and coaches are tested daily. The Raptors used 12 players on Friday and had 14 listed as available to play that night. For Sunday's game, Siakam was the only player who had been listed on Saturday's injury report as out because of health and safety protocols — which indicates that results that came back on Saturday either showed more problems, or contact tracing showed that players had been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and may have to quarantine.

About half the league's teams are allowing a small number of fans into arenas for games, but testing protocols and other rules have been stiffened as the season has gone on in the interest of safety. The league has been able to play about 94% of its scheduled games so far this season, which NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and some players have touted as some measure of success to this point.

"Hopefully, going forward, we can continue it," Miami forward Kelly Olynyk said Sunday. "Obviously, we'd love to see fans back in the arenas, travel, all that kind of stuff be permitted and allowed when it's safe to do so. But right now, we're still trying to get the games in as safely as we can."

Chicago had traveled to Tampa on Saturday for the game and after the postponement was announced changed its plans to fly back home Sunday afternoon. The Bulls are scheduled to play Monday at home against Denver. ***(AP)***

Optimism abounds as MLB's spring includes fans

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Brian Delaney checked his ticket, found his seats and then sat down for a minute in the sunshine. It wasn't a typical late February day in Arizona — a little cool, a little breezy — but Delaney didn't complain a bit.

"You ever been through a Colorado winter?" the Colorado Rockies fan said with a grin.

The good humor and smiles were easy to find as baseball fans streamed into Sunday afternoon's spring training opener between the Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks. A downward trend in COVID-19 cases throughout most of the country has meant that a limited amount of fans are allowed back in spring training facilities throughout Arizona and Florida.

At Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, the crowd was capped at about 2,200 fans, which is 16% of the usual capacity. Delaney said he never hesitated to get tickets for himself and Debra Mierzwa once they went on sale a few weeks ago.

"Oh yeah," Delaney said. "We were never worried. This is great."

The happy and halfway-normal scene on Sunday was a far cry from 353 days ago, when incredulous fans stood outside Salt River Fields and digested the news that baseball — and pretty much the rest of the world — was being shutdown because of the spreading coronavirus pandemic.

Nearly a year later, things are very different.

"It seemed like forever," said Brandon Ramsey, who lives in the Phoenix area and went to the Reds-Indians game in Goodyear on Sunday. "Last year got cut a little short. To come out here for opening day is just fantastic. They did a great job in socially distancing. They made sure we were safe."

Aside from the World Series and NL Championship Series held last October at a neutral-site park in Arlington, Texas, this marked the first time fans were allowed at big league baseball games since March 12.

By now the safety protocols for sports events have become familiar. Fans in Scottsdale are spread out in small pods of two, four or six people. Masks are worn except when eating and drinking. People sitting on blankets in the grass beyond the outfield wall were given spray-painted squares to stay separate. Cleaning crews are ubiquitous.

But spring baseball appears to have considerable safety advantage over its NBA, NHL and college basketball counterparts: It's played outdoors where studies have shown the virus is less effective at spreading.

AP

Fans sit in social distance squares during a spring training baseball game with the Minnesota Twins and Boston Red Sox on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, in Fort Myers, Fla.

"We feel really good about our ability to host spring training in the safest possible way," Cactus League executive director Bridget Binsbacher said.

All 30 teams in Major League Baseball are allowing fans at their spring training facilities in Arizona and Florida, though capacity will be severely limited. The Chicago Cubs are welcoming the most fans (3,630 per game) while the San Francisco Giants will have the fewest (1,000 per game).

The Yankees and Twins have the largest percentage of seats available, with the potential to reach 28% of capacity.

Fans certainly seem excited about getting back to the park. The players have missed them, too.

Oakland right-hander Daulton Jefferies got a thrill from facing the loaded Los Angeles Dodgers lineup with fans in the seats at last. The limited crowd of 1,998 was a sellout at Hohokam Stadium in Mesa, Arizona.

"Even though it's 20-percent capacity it didn't feel like it," Jefferies said. "Everyone was very loud. It was just a lot of fun. I think we truly underestimated how much we missed it."

The outlook for spring training has changed drastically just in the past month. Back in January, the Cactus League sent a letter to MLB suggesting that the spring schedule be delayed because of high COVID-19 case counts in Maricopa County, which is home to all 15 teams in Arizona.

But then cases plummeted in Arizona and the plan to play games pushed forward. Binsbacher and others became much more optimistic.

For some fans, the progress came too late.

Don Witynski is a 58-year-old Milwaukee Brewers fan from Wisconsin who has traveled to Arizona the past four years for about a week during spring training. He said his family of four would watch three or four baseball games but the trip also includes hiking and other outdoor activities in the Arizona sun.

Not this year. He said most of his friends are staying in Wisconsin this year, though a few will make the trip to the desert.

"We're hunkering down, staying home," Witynski said. "I've got teenagers, 13-year-old twins. Obviously until this vaccine rolls out more we're definitely staying home this year unfortunately."

Those are the kinds of stories that have Arizona and Florida bracing for another year of lost revenue. But limited fans are better than no fans. The appetite to watch baseball appears strong: The Rockies and Diamondbacks — who share the Salt River Fields facility — both sold out their entire spring ticket allotments about 24 hours after they went public.

Delaney said he and Mierzwa were coming to Arizona regardless of the baseball situation. They enjoy trail running and Arizona in February is a fine time for that sport. Businesses in Arizona hope there more Delaneys and Mierzwas out there to make 2021 a little less painful.

"It's all part of moving the right direction," Binsbacher said. "I can't stress enough – health and safety was at the forefront of everything we did. But the financial numbers are real. It definitely impacts our businesses and the numbers speak for themselves. It's a tremendous impact."

The COVID-19 hit to central Arizona's baseball economy was stark: A study from Arizona State University found that the Cactus League's season generated an estimated economic impact of $363.6 million in 2020 before the shutdown in mid-March, which was down nearly $300 million from the estimated $644.2 million generated in 2018.

The study added that 2020 would have been "on a par" with 2018 had it not been for the coronavirus.

As for 2021, there is cautious optimism that the Cactus League season won't be a complete washout for the local economy. But for hotels, restaurants, bars, golf courses and rental house companies, there's little doubt that finances will take a hit for a second straight year.

Stephanie Pressler, who is the director of community affairs for Experience Scottsdale, said businesses are balancing realism with a little optimism now that COVID-19 cases have gone down and all teams are allowing at least some fans.

"This is normally the busiest time of year for Scottsdale's tourism industry, largely because of Cactus League spring training," Pressler said in an email. "Understandably, our expectations are muted this year given the ongoing pandemic, though Experience Scottsdale is excited that the season is moving forward in a way that will keep teams, fans, employees and residents safe."

Tatis gets no-trade, hotel suite, right to buy luxury suite

NEW YORK (AP)—Fernando Tatis Jr. gets a full no-trade provision through 2028 as part of his $330 million, 14-year contract with the San Diego Padres.

After that he will have the ability to block a trade to 13 teams for the remainder of the deal.

However, the 22-year-old Tatis already has two years of major league service, so if he remains in the major leagues he would acquire the right after 2028 to block trades under the collective bargaining agreement as a 10-year veteran who has been with his team for five years or longer.

His contract calls for a $10 million signing bonus payable within 30 days of approval of the contract by the commissioner's office and a $1 million salary this year, his last season before he would have been eligible for arbitration.

He gets $5 million in 2022, $7 million in 2023 and $11 million in 2024, the three seasons he would have been eligible for arbitration.

AP

San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. runs during San Diego Padres spring training baseball practice Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, in Peoria, Ariz.

Tatis receives $20 million each in 2025 and 2026, the first two seasons after he would have become eligible for free agency, $25 million apiece in 2027 and 2028, and $36 million in each of the final six seasons.

He also gets a hotel suite on all road trips, and the right to purchase a premium luxury suite and four of the best available premium season tickets for all Padres' home games.

Tatis' deal, announced Feb. 22, exceeds in length the $325 million, 13-year agreement in November 2014 between Miami and Giancarlo Stanton, who was traded to the New York Yankees in December 2017, and the $330 million, 13-year contract ahead of the 2019 season between Philadelphia and Bryce Harper.

He has baseball's third-largest agreement by amount, trailing Mike Trout's $426.5 million, 12-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels that started in 2019 and Mookie Betts' $365, 12-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers that begins this season.

Tatis will give up a percentage of his salary to a company called Big League Advance as part of a contract in which he accepted an upfront payment several years ago. While the details of Tatis' deal with the company are not known, a lawsuit filed by Francisco Mejía in 2018 said Mejia received $360,000 as part of agreements in which he agreed to repay the company 10% of future earnings. The lawsuit was dismissed with prejudice.

Beach volleyball: New normal for PSS athletic program

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program had to be creative if it wanted to host organize sports this school year.

One of the changes was substituting its regular indoor volleyball league with a beach volleyball competition, which concluded last Saturday with the Mount Carmel School Knights taking the boys championship of the first-ever 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court.

According to MCS player Merrick Toves, beach volleyball was much more challenging than the indoor volleyball league they were accustomed to.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Mount Carmel School's Sam Ryu sets the ball against Grace Christmas Academy during the boys championship of the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand court.

"It was really fun but it's not easy because playing and jumping around in the sand is really hard," he said.

Randy Steele, MCS volleyball coach, said the first interscholastic beach volleyball tournament was well put together and PSS along with its supporters did a great job.

"What a wonderful tournament. The tournament was a huge success and the kids needed it after being stuck indoors for a really long time so it was a great event. These guys play a lot of soccer and tennis so they're use to the heat, this doesn't affect them," he said.

Another MCS player, Sam Ryu, said despite the challenging venue, they played hard and truly deserved the win over their rival school, Grace Christian Academy.

"GCA has been our rival team for quite some time now but we played hard and we deserve this win. Overall It was a good match," he said.

Although MCS won the championship, GCA gave them a run for their money with a challenging three sets. Steele said it's about how you finish not how you start, "you need to finish strong," he said.

He said GCA was a great opponent, and he knew they'd give MCS a hard game.

"I'm not surprised that the only loss throughout the whole tournament was from them. They have some really great players and they have a really good volleyball program," he said.

MCS 1, who had a twice-to-beat advantage, came from behind and swept the last two sets, preventing GCA from extending to a deciding second game.

Morikawa plays a steady hand to win Workday Championship

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP)—The plan was for PGA champion Collin Morikawa to wear a red shirt with his black pants Sunday to show support for Tiger Woods as he recovers from career-threatening leg injuries from a car crash.

The clothes shipped to him never arrived, so Morikawa did the next best thing at the Workday Championship.

He played like him.

Staked to a two-shot lead, Morikawa shook off an early mistake, regained control around the turn, delivered two clutch putts and then played a steady hand on a Concession Golf Club course known for calamity.

Just like Woods has done so often, Morikawa forced everyone to catch him. No one did, and his 3-under 69 gave him a three-shot victory for his first World Golf Championship.

"With how good the field was, how good my game felt, to close it out with such a stacked leaderboard coming after me, it really means a lot," Morikawa said.

He became the 24th player to win a major and a World Golf Championship title, and the 24-year-old Californian joined Woods as the only players to win both before turning 25.

Woods was 23 when he won the first of his 18 World Golf Championships.

Morikawa, who finished at 18-under 270, won for the fourth time in his last 34 starts on the PGA Tour. He finished three ahead of Brooks Koepka (70), Viktor Hovland (67) and Billy Horschel (70), who played with Morikawa in the final group and witnessed the supreme iron play that made him so hard to catch.

As for that red shirt? Morikawa thinks it got stuck in Tennessee because of the weather. He even sent his caddie to the distribution center to see if it arrived.

Several other players wore the ensemble that Woods made famous, and Tony Finau took it an extra step by arriving at Concession with his cap turned backward.

AP

Collin Morikawa kisses the championship trophy after winning the Workday Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, in Bradenton, Fla.

Woods suffered serious injuries to his right leg and foot when his SUV crashed off a road and tumbled down a hill in the Los Angeles suburbs on Tuesday. After a prolonged surgery to put the shattered bones back together, he is recovering and was said to be in good spirits.

"Red and black, we know that's what Tiger does on Sundays, so just to join in and just let Tiger know we're supporting him in the best way we can," Finau said. "We're still playing and we miss him out here, but it was cool just to be a part of that."

The inspiration came from Woods. The instruction came from a pair of major champions.

Morikawa was down on his putting a few weeks ago while at home in Las Vegas when he decided to try to the "saw" putting grip that Mark O'Meara perfected, He rotates his right hand so that his first two fingers extend down the grip. O'Meara recently moved to Las Vegas, and Morikawa sought him out.

And then at Concession, he asked club member Paul Azinger for help with his chipping on the Bermuda grass. Azinger said it took about 10 minutes, more about technique to get the bounce in the wedge more involved.

Both worked beautifully all week.

Rock solid with his game and his emotions, Morikawa choked up ever so slightly when it was over talking about Woods and what he has meant to the game, and his paternal grandfather, who died last month.

"You don't get to say thank you enough," Morikawa said. "So , 'Thank you, guys.'"

NMI

From Page 20

policy adviser Robert Hunter.

Tan said that discussion on the additional training facility has been on the table after NMIFA opened the NMISTC in July 2018. Funding sources have also been discussed, but the top concern is finding a place to build the facility.

"Even if funding is available, but there is no land, we can't build. Now, we have access to the property so we can move forward with building a bigger facility for our community," Tan said.

NMIFA is looking at constructing two fields—a regular-sized pitch and a mini one at the lot adjacent to the NMISTC.

NMIFA technical director and NMI National Team head coach Michiteru Mita said the additional training facility will play a very important role in NMIFA's mission to contribute to making the community healthier through sports participation.

Mita added that having additional pitches will help NMIFA better serve not only the national teams, but its club members. The two pitches at the NMISTC are mostly utilized for training sessions of national team players and actual competitions, while players from NMIFA member clubs practice in school fields.

"To improve our game quality, it's not only the national team players who should train on the grass pitches, but also the club players. Referees and coaches also need to train in the facilities. Since we are now a full member of the AFC, our program will be more active to improve the game. If we have more quality pitches, we can run many programs at same time," Mita said.

The NMIFA technical director also sees the construction of another training facility as an opportunity for the Commonwealth to invite off-island teams, which can provide NMI players the added exposure they need in terms of playing against high-level squads. CNMI players usually go off-island to play in regional competitions and have quality training matches.

Mita added having more facilities and bringing in off-island teams will give the community a chance to watch better quality games.

Meanwhile, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said there's no timeline yet for the construction of the additional pitches, but the environmental survey of the site has been completed. The priority this year, he added, would be securing the needed documents and clearing the area.

TOMAS

From Page 20

Katarina Obsivanova completing the race minutes after her. Obsivanova completed the run with a time of 55:54.

Completing the Top 3 for the women's division of the run was Lydia Tan who submitted a time of 58:57.

The 6th Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Run is the Triathlon Association of the CNMI's first event for the 2021 season.

A total of 22 individuals participated in the 10K run event of the Aquthlon. A total of 49 individuals participated in the 6th Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Run, as 27 joined the run-swim-run event.

The Aquathlon event covered a distance of 5 kilometers in the first run, a 1-km swim, and 2.5 kms in the final run.

Antetokounmpo, Bucks rally late to beat Clippers

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Optimism abounds as MLB's spring includes fans

PAGE 18

NMI to get additional soccer pitches

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will have additional quality soccer pitches, providing the islands' residents more opportunities to join the growing sport's program.

Less than three years after the NMI Soccer Training Center opened in Koblerville, additional pitches will be built in the same village after the Northern Marianas Island Football Association, through the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Lands, secured a lease agreement for the construction of the new facility adjacent to the NMISTC.

"As soccer continues to develop in the CNMI, we want to make sure that more people, especially our youth, will have the opportunity to be part of this great program by providing them with a safe and proper venue for games and other related activities," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who led the lease signing ceremony last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and was joined by NMIFA president Jerry Tan, DCCA Secretary Joseph Deleon Guerrero, and senior

See NMI on Page 19

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third left, signs the agreement designating a property in Koblerville for the construction of two additional soccer pitches, while Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, right, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Joseph Deleon Guerrero, second left, and Torres' senior policy adviser Robert Hunter, left, look on during the signing ceremony last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita gestures during a coaching course held last month at the main pitch of the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Tomas is Aquathlon 10K winner

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Abel Tomas finished as the overall winner in the 10K run portion of the 6th Aquathlon & 10K Run held last Saturday at the PauPau Beach in Marpi.

Tomas bolted through the 10K course and completed the run in just 45:01, the fastest time in both the male and female division of the event.

The 10K run started from the PauPau Beach in Marpi and the turnaround point was located at the Last Command Post.

Edward Dela Cruz Jr. came in at a close second, finishing just a minute behind Tomas with a time of 46:00.

The third-place title for the male division was awarded to Daniel Stutzman who submitted a time of 52:41.

Akiko Miller prevailed in the female division of the 10K run, as she completed the course in 50:12.

Miller left her opponents in the dust with second place winner

See TOMAS on Page 19

Tomas

Miller